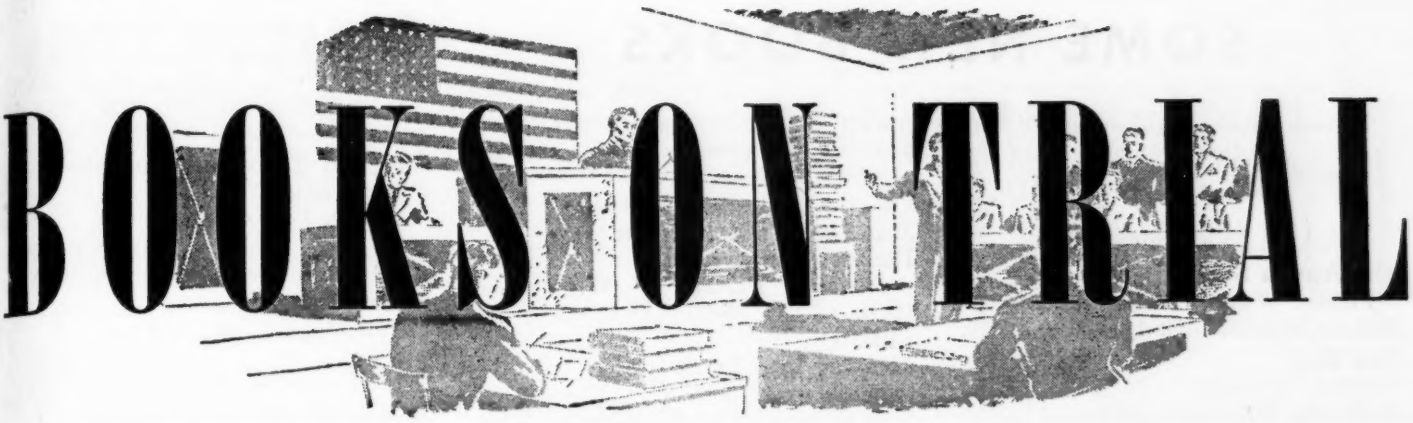

VOLUME VI, NUMBER 8 APRIL, 1948 PRICE FIFTY CENTS

ANNOTATED INDEX TO VOL. VI

and

Francis Thompson as Book Reviewer

. . . *assessed by Father Grady*

Anne Fremantle's First Novel

. . . *appraised by Julius Frasch Harmon*

Two new Cardinal Newman Publications

. . . *studied by Father O'Leary . . . Roger McHugh*

besides

Father Lelen on Mauriac's Margaret of Cortona. . . Helene Magaret on the new Mother Seton novel. . . Mary Louis Hector on the exciting Flemish importation, Cain . . . Father Logal on Van der Meersch's second novel in translation . . . and many other important features. . .

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SOME NEW BOOKS

Sifted, for the information of the generality of our readers, from the hundreds of new titles pouring out of the book-mills of the country; not necessarily recommended.

Fiction

The Aunt's Story
Patrick White Viking, $3.00
Mature portrait maladjusted spinster.

The End
Hugh Venning D & S, $2.50
Futurable Christian fantasy.

The Foundling
Georgette Heyer Putnam, $3
Austenesque period-piece.

The Great Mischief
Josephine Pinckney Viking, $2.75
Charleston necromancy (BOTM).

Harp in the South
Ruth Park HM, $2.75
Australian-Irish slums.

Home to the Hermitage
Alfred Leland Crabb Bobbs, $2.75
Andrew Jacksons at home.

Mathilde
Leonhard Frank S & S, $3
Sorry, but it's immoral.

Michael
Owen Francis Dudley LG, $3
New "Masterful Monk" yarn.

Miss Mallett
Burke Boyce Harper, $3.75
Good portrait school teacher.

The Pleasant Morning Light
Josephine Lawrence Whit, $3
Probes unmarried-woman case.

The Proud Way
Shirley Seifert Lipp, $3
Wholesome hist. Jeff Davises.

Quench the Moon
by Walter Macken Viking, $3
Novel fresh from Ireland.

Some Time Never; A Fable for Supermen
Roald Dahl Scrib, $2.75
The gremlins take over.

General

The Earth Is Ours
Marion Pedersen Teal Crowell, $2.75
Gothamites take over Ill. farm.

Figures for an Apocalypse
Thomas Merton, O.C.S.O. New Dir., $2.50
Tremendous prophetic poetry.

Fire
George R. Stewart Random, $3
Interesting narrative essay.

Highland Heart in Nova Scotia
Neil MacNeil Mac, $2.75
Memoirs Cath. Scot colonists.

Jim Farley's Story: The Roosevelt Years
James A. Farley Whit., $3.50
Behind US political smokescreen (TMBC).

Journey into Faith
Eleanor Ruggles Norton, $4
"Anglican Life of John Henry Newman."

Lake Okeechobee
Alfred J. and Kathryn Abbey Hanna Bobbs, $4
Fine add. Amer. Lake Series.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address
Designs by James Daugherty Whitman, $5
Sensational mural-styled oils.

Stranger in the Earth
Thomas Sugrue Holt, $4
Self-study; critical of Church.

Towboat River
Edwin and Louise Rosskam DX & P, $7.50
New "Life on the Mississippi."

Spiritual and Theological

Art and Faith
Jacques Maritain & Jean Cocteau Phil. Lib., $2.75
Letters philosopher and poet.

Communism and Conscience of the West
Fulton J. Sheen Bobbs, $2.50
Probes root causes atheistic materialism (TMBC).

Father Dominic Barberi
Denis Gwynn D & S, $3
Received Newman into Faith.

Fundamental Principles Cath. Action
F. Lelotte, S.J. Fides, $3-1.25

God the Father
Emile Guerry S & W, $2.50
Richly suggestive meditations.

Growth or Decline?
Emmanuel Card. Suhard Fides, $2
Stirring message for Christians (TMBC).

Human Wisdom of St. Thomas
Arr. Josef Pieper S & W, $2
Breviary of Thomistic texts.

The Inside of the Cup
Ferdinand Valentine, O.P. Blackfriars, $1.50
Potent and practical aids to sanctity.

Judgment on Birth Control
R. de Guchteneere, M.D. S & W, $1.50
Assembles all the angles.

Nature, Knowledge and God
Bro. Benignus Gerrity, F.S.C. Bruce, $4.50 (short)
"Introduction to Thomistic Philosophy."

The Old Testament and the Future Life
Edmund F. Sutcliffe, S.J. Newman, $3.50
Cites Hebrew hopes of immortality.

Other Christs
Fr. Aloysius, O.F.M.Cap. Gill-Newman, $2.25
"Conferences at a Priests' retreat."

A Retreat with St. Therese
Pere Liagre, C.S.Sp. Newman, $2
"Little way" meditations.

A Rosary Chain
Sr. M. Dominic, O.P. Blackfriars, $1.50
Scriptures and verse meditations.

Salt of the Earth
S. M. Shaw Newman, $2.75
Discourse on the priesthood.

The Third Spiritual Alphabet
Fray Francisco de Osuna Newman, $4
Influenced St. Teresa of Avila.

The Well of Living Waters
ed. Pascal P. Parente Herder, $3.50
Quotations on spiritual topics.

BOTips

• MAURIAC—MERTON

Sometimes the books nearest BOT's heart get the scantest mention. For example, we were so excited about the reprinting of Mauriac's *God and Mammon* ($1.50) last Fall that we almost forgot to mention the event (except in a list, one issue). . . .

What brings it up now is that Father Thomas Merton's essay from *The Commonweal* of sometime in July, 1947, titled *Poetry and the Contemplative Life,* is now sharing the covers with his stunning new poetry—*Figures for an Apocalypse* ($2.50). Between them, these two monographs say just about everything that needs saying on the question of the Catholic artist, even when that question arises in the *Atlantic Monthly*. . .

In general the Mauriac piece studies the effect of the Catholic artist's Catholicism upon his art, & *in general* the Merton studies the effect of the artistic experience upon his soul—but both are basically preoccupied with the same problem—the ambivalence of the Catholic artist who is

(continued on page 268)

BOOKS ON TRIAL

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Vol. VI APRIL, 1948 No. 8

Cancel My Subscription

I have said on previous occasions that mention in our columns of economic or labor problems provokes more fireworks than any other subject. Considering their importance, this may be a good thing. Undoubtedly, it affords an enlightening view of the level of much current thinking. Unfortunately, I think, too much of what I read, or hear discussed in our book shop, is on an emotional plane. A subscriber writes:

"*Editor:* Cancel my subscription. The quotes from the Father Gillis editorial in the Feb. number interspersed with your sapient* comments on economic problems, did it. His (and your) defense of 'rugged individualism' is a mockery of the Catholic principles of Social Justice."

It is evident that the writer finds himself in disagreement with the paragraphs quoted from an editorial in The Catholic World, which many others have praised. What is regrettable is that the former subscriber made no attempt to explain why he feels as he does. I believe that we are in great need of a little more pro and con discussion—that there are too many who will not look at or listen to anything they fear might not bolster their own point of view.

*Sapient, pres. part. of *Sapere,* to taste, to have sense, to know.

* * *

"Yardstick" Columnist Contradicted

The letter of the month evoking the most comments received appeared in *The Commonweal,* March 12. William P. Casey, editorial chairman of *The Research Institute of America,* attempted a critical answer to an earlier review by Rev. George G. Higgins, but found it "hard to come to grips with because so much of it consists of blithe assumptions and rather cryptic innuendos."

Mr. Casey thinks that Father Higgins and "the economists who advise the president are suffering from a rather serious cultural lag."

Space prevents going into the matter more fully in this issue. The matter has added importance because of a column by Father Higgins, "The Yardstick," which appears in several Catholic newspapers. All those so far heard from are inclined to agree with Mr. Casey.

* * *

Another letter in *The Commonweal,* March 19, by John C. Cort on "industry councils" is very much worth reading.

* * *

"Who Gets Our National Income?"

Strangely enough, it was a priest just one week in this country, for the first time, from China—where they really know something about inflation—who asked me whether I had read an article in *Look* magazine for March giving "Some Hard Facts about Soft Theories."

Written by Rev. Edward A. Keller, C.S.C., this article explodes a lot of popular myths. It should be memorized.

* * *

Comments and inquiries received evince astonishing misconceptions or absence of information on what one might consider simple subjects. A few of these are the following, on which we will touch in the next issue:

. . . The almost total misconception of the meaning of "tools for workers." "Why does any worker need $4,000 worth of tools?";

. . . A naive failure to recognize the calculated rise in wages, and the price rise (which we thought any perceptive person would have known would follow), as an attempted solution of the enormous national debt problem;

. . . Failure to recognize the consequent reduced purchasing power of the dollar as a concealed, or hidden, form of expropriation (if goods and services now cost twice as much, then anyone who saved some of his earnings can now pay for only one-half

(continued on next page)

SAINT MARGARET OF CORTONA

By FRANCOIS MAURIAC

This, the latest novel from the pen of the distinguished French author, deals with the mysterious fate of that great sinner and saint of medieval Italy.

"Enticed by curiosity, by the alluring titles of the chapters, and the fascinating facts of the story, it is meet to mention that we have read this romance of repentance at a single stretch. Mauriac is at his best. His seems to be an unearthly power. All in all we have here a noble piece of work."

—*J. M. Lelen, Ph.D., Books on Trial,* **$3.00**

★ ☆ ★

ART and FAITH

Exchange of Letters Between Jacques Maritain and Jean Cocteau

This exchange of letters between one of the most distinguished philosophers of our time and the well-known poet deals not only with the nature and meaning of poetry, but also with the sociological and political significance of art itself. Those who are not indifferent to the mysterious and deep relations that art entertains with religion and man's life, will find a certain challenge in these letters.

$2.75

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New York 16, N. Y.

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as much. The other half is gone. Which has led many to say they'll never again try to save—which means letting the government support them later on);

. . . The belief that there is an oversupply of capital, whereas the present shortage of capital is a danger spot.

* * *

It seems to us that if our young people, and adults, too, don't get a better understanding of these matters they will continue to fall victims to the forces to which they think they are opposed.

—Editor

"BOY SCOUTS AT HEART"

The Great Hope

Marguerita Rudolph John Day, $2.75

Reviewed by Gloria Tanasso.

This book indeed is a handsome apple having a fine jacket (naturally red), an introduction by Pearl S. Buck, black and white illustrations, homey details and several charming characters. Unfortunately, it has an overripe core. To all appearances, the story is simply that of the author's own Jewish-Ukrainian family and her childhood in Russia starting in the last days of Czarist rule, continuing through World War I, revolution, counterrevolution, Soviet state, and ending with her coming to America at the age of 15.

In this respect it is a good story and one wishes Mrs. Rudolph had left it at that. But she has not. Her efforts to make the Soviet Union sound like "the great hope" realized are too forced and the reader feels he is being railroaded into the wrong impression. This is comically true when she portrays the Red Army soldiers as just a bunch of boy scouts at heart.

The author says, through 15-year-old Fanya, eldest daughter: "Religion divides people—Christians hate Jews, and Jews don't trust Christians." She implies, therefore, that all religion should be abolished. This is obviously a bigoted conclusion conditioned by a background of Jewish persecutions and communist indoctrination. It is quite in character and to be expected of a communist, as Miss Rudolph evidently is. The marvel is that any publisher in this land of comparative beatitude should find it necessary or desirable to give currency to such conclusions.

Perhaps Miss Buck's introduction is well-meaning but she omits the main factor needed for a lasting peace—that is, eternal *truth* at its core.

BOTips

(Continued from page 266)

minded to become a saint, as is commanded. . . .

Do read them both. . . Sister Madeleva, C.S.C., renowned poet, scholar and educator, is reviewing the Merton book for BOT. . .

• FATHER McNABB ON WORK

At the time of our blessed Lord the whole idea of work was beginning to be scorned. God has laid on the human race the necessity for work. We must cooperate with Nature. If we don't stretch out our hands to work, we die. . .

If life is divided into work and prayer, work is the first necessity. Our first duty to God is not prayer, it is work. Work is not our highest duty, but it is our first. God has made it so. . . Our first duty is to avoid sin and to do the Will of God—by work. Our first prayer is to work because it is God's Will we should do so.

When Jesus came, he was exactly punctual to the minute. The whole idea of work was waning in the world. He began, of course, with Work. Most people think he was a sort of dreamer, and that mystics are not quite practical persons. A mystic is the most practical of all persons. Why? Because he is thinking of the End. He is concerned with working for his neighbour. His view is the long view. When our dear Lord came into the world, he was a worker—eighteen years at the bench, following a craft. All our life should be work, or preparation for work; and all our work should be for others. . .

from "An Old Apostle Speaks,"
p. 12 (Blackfriars, 60c)

• THE BRITISH ARE COMING

A. J. Cronin's new novel, *Red Dust,* is currently being read by his U.S. publishers, & publication is promised for July 19—author's birthday (he wanted it that way). . . . Same publisher is very busy on the job of toning-down for American consumption Evelyn Waugh's new composition—a pretty strong expose (we gather) of the soul of Hollywood. It is already on sale in England—unexpurgated. Mr. Waugh, you recall, removed himself & his *Brideshead* out of Hollywood when producers insisted on rejecting cornerstone of the whole book—the power of Grace. . .

Frank Sheed, in The Thomas More on business ostensibly connected with autographing *Theology & Sanity,* hinted unmistakably to the effect that two of his house's greatest Brains—Christopher Dawson & E. I. Watkin—are severally in the final stages of creation—one in history, the other a sort of dialectics of contemplation (the terms are BOT's). And Maisie Ward (Sheed)'s *Young Mr. Newman,* about to be published in England, will reach us somewhat later this year (is that polite, Mr. S.?). . .

Which means competition for Eleanor Ruggles' *Journey into Faith,* reviewed within by Roger McHugh. Prof. McHugh, not so incidentally, held forth on past & future of the Abbey Theatre as star speaker at the opening of BOT-reviewer-Father-Lehane's Irish Library, DePaul University, on March 13.

• MEA CULPA DEPARTMENT

Rev. J. Stanley Murphy, C.S.B., Assumption College, Windsor, Ont., wishes it known that Dr. Marshall McLuhan, charged in Feb. BOT (p. 207) with being on the Assumption faculty, is now associate professor of English at St. Michael's College, Toronto. Well, at least he's still with the Basilians. . .

And that faithful sharpie, Rev. Demetrius Manousos, O.F.M.Cap., practically obliterates BOT as follows:

> In the last issue (Feb., p. 188) you ascribe to the all too common opinion that Dante's lines . . . refer to Celestine V. This is Cary's interpretation, and the interpretation of many Protestant and, I think, not a few Catholic scholars, too. The interpretation, however, is highly doubtful. It certainly is not certain. "The great refusal" (*Lo gran refiuto*) need not refer to a resignation at all. Cary's contention seems to be based chiefly on the evidence of Fazio degli Uberti, a Ghibelline and a freethinker. . .
>
> Best argument to prove that Dante did not mean Celestine V is his loyalty to the Holy See coupled with the fact that he must have known that Celestine V had just been canonized by Clement V in 1313. Dante finished the first two parts of the *Commedia* in 1317. . . . Best interpretation seems to be that Dante is referring to the Rich Young Man of Mark X, 17 ff., who went away sad for he had great possessions. . .
>
> Perhaps there will never be a Pope Celestine VI, but let's not forget that Pope Celestine V is a saint. . .

Help! help!

NEW FICTION

Post-Medieval Scottish Romance

James and Joan

Anne Fremantle Holt, $3.00

Reviewed by Julius Frasch Harmon.

Mrs. Fremantle's publishers refer to this book as an "unorthodox historical novel." Their use of the word "novel" was probably resorted to because the book is too accurate and too historical to be classified as a fictionalized biography, while it is too diffused and deals with too many subjects to be classified as a life and character sketch. Unorthodox the work certainly is, and to Mrs. Fremantle the distinction cannot be denied of having written a book that strains the analytical powers of classification of the English language. One might compare her achievement to a house built according to a very poor plan which has been sumptuously furnished in the best of taste.

Her unique story begins in such a way as to lead the reader to assume he is perusing an historical novel whose heroine is Queen Annabella, Consort of Robert III, King of Scotland, and mother of James I, one of Scotland's greatest rulers, and also one of her numerous minor poets. On page 29, however, she dies, and her place in the tale is taken by her eldest son, David, Duke of Rothesay, who, in his turn, meets death on page 34. The chief competition for the reader's attention is then provided by Bishop Wardlow of St. Andrew's, who leaves the book on page 49 and does not return for some two hundred pages. Whereupon the reader begins to suspect that the little Prince James, through whose eyes some of the characters have been seen, is to be the book's hero.

As soon as he has settled down to enjoy an account of his adventures, James is captured by English privateers on page 52, not to be released from captivity until the reader reaches page 175. This captivity he spends in the Tower of London, at the English court, and on the battlefields of France, where King Henry V of England allows him to do a little fighting in much the same considerate and gentlemanly spirit a contemporary commander of a prisoner-of-war camp might let his charges out on parole from time to time for a couple of hours of rabbit shooting. This permits the author to tell the reader a great deal about the leading events and figures of the day, which she does very well, and to put in the mind of James many sage reflections on the religious, political and economic problems of the day. A page or two before his release he meets Joan Beaufort, his future wife, who thereupon becomes the chief figure of the book.

"Chaste Realism"

Less of an intellectual than her husband, despite considerable erudition in the fields of ascetical and moral theology, she gives much of her thought to the problem of woman's relationship to man, and thinks of the same in terms of what some readers will consider a chaste realism and all will allow to be realism. She views her husband's career as that of a reforming monarch, and while she does so the reader is provided with a brief, but interesting sketch, of Scottish history in the middle of the 15th Century. This is climaxed by an irrelevant, but unforgettable, sketch of the character of the future Pius II, which interrupts the events leading to James' murder.

The book closes with his disconsolate widow assisting at his funeral, a scene which would have been much less affecting had Mrs. Fremantle's zeal for historical accuracy led her to mention the fact that two years later she consoled herself with a second husband.

While Mrs. Fremantle's book must, on account of its construction, be classified as an artistic failure, it is, nonetheless, *a very honorable one.* When one has attempted the impossible, a half-success may be classified as a semi-triumph. That she has achieved. If her book as a whole is poor, most of its pages are good. In them is conveyed a clear vision of what 15th C. Scotland was like—a wild and civilized country unlike any other that ever was. There are good glimpses, too, of what the England and France of the time were like, and a multitude of excellent portrayals of a host of the figures of the time. Those who have a vague knowledge of the time may clarify it considerably by reading this book. Those with a good knowledge will have their perception of it sharpened by contact with a sound historical instinct.

Fiction Round-up

By Riley Hughes, Georgetown University; literary editor, "Columbia."

LITERARY GUILD

Lucinda Brayford

Martin Boyd Dutton, $3.00

Although this novel has a large canvas, a leisurely pace, and some "solid" merits, it is not only a study of disintegration in the English upper-middle and upper class life over three generations, but it is in itself an object lesson on disintegrating. There are no sordid scenes whatever and sin is looked on obliquely, *yet the accelerating pattern of marital infidelity and divorce is accepted.* The book ends on a hopeful note that "the good must return to mankind," but the bases of that hope, as seen here, are *flimsy and trivial.* Equally trifling, and perhaps not unrelated, is the author's overuse of coincidence. *Doubtful merit.*

Milk Route

Martha Ostenso Dodd, $3.00

This novel studies post-war confusion in a small mid-Western town. Some questionable actions—a premarital affair and a character's resolution to commit suicide—seem to be condoned by the author. Normal family life, however, is upheld. No protracted sordid scenes here, yet the general atmosphere is *far from wholesome. Doubtful merit.*

Immortal Helen

Helen Corbett Doubleday, $2.50

A novel depicting the business and personal life of a 19th C. tycoon. The double standard serves as underpinning; although the tycoon in question believes it is *comme il faut* for him to have a mistress—"respectably" and in another city—he is determined that his daughter live morally, finally giving up his mistress for her sake. *Doubtful merit.*

Never Love a Stranger

Harold Robbins Knopf, $3.50

A picaresque novel, this, a sort of streamlined American *Tom Jones,* whose orphan-hero grows up and presumably "finds himself" through sordid experiences—for a time he is bouncer in a brothel—described in *thoroughly objectionable, clinical detail.* An added feature is the novel's *subtle, unrelenting war on Catholicism,* which is associated with smugness and hypocritical vice. *Disapproved.*

A Great & Good Book ---but Grisly Reading

Bodies and Souls

Maxence Van Der Meersch (tr. Eithne Wilkins) P & C, $3.50

Reviewed by Rev. Nelson W. Logal.

This is a novel with a purpose, but the purpose does not detract from the art form employed. It makes for grisly, ghastly reading, but its fidelity to the truth of life and human character gives the whole a calm beauty and sublimity difficult to match. There is no escape in this novel. If you are prepared for the shock of surveying human evil (as well as the thrill of discovering human goodness) without the palaver of slick story telling, this is a book that you should not miss. In the opinion of this reviewer, *Bodies and Souls* is *a great and good book.*

The author turns the spotlight of a pitiless examination on the whole field of modern medicine with an emphasis on French practice. Socialized medicine, the amoral processes of beauracratic control, the piracy of medical gougers, legal quackery, and unwarranted fidelity to lucrative but outmoded medical treatments are denounced by employing the exposure meter of facts. Cynical physicians, surgeons, and hospital practices are castigated without a trace of caricature and muckraking. An admirable balance is preserved. For every Santhanas or Geraudin, there is a Michael Doutreval and Domberle.

The "unity of disease" theory with "diet-therapy" is advanced by the author. Practically every operation known to surgery is meticulously described with a vivid and often a dramatic brilliance. These elements are skillfully integrated into an absorbing story rich in human character. A cast of 42 characters is appended to the story. Amazingly enough, each one of the characters is an interesting, significant, real human being. At least 20 of these characters are superbly developed. The interaction and growth of these people form the substance of a novel foaming with conflict and action.

If you have a tender stomach or a squeamish mind, this is not the book for you. You will not understand the people in this novel if you do not understand the poison that original sin poured into the cup of history. If, however, you have the balance, the understanding compassion, the philosophy, and the faith of the author, you will find this book *a memorable experience.*

Creative Expansion Genesis Account

Cain

Rogier van Aerde McMullen, $3.50

(tr. from the Dutch by I. & E. Graham-Wilson)

Reviewed by Mary Louise Hector, English faculty, Mundelein College.

"And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and slew him."

In Genesis, Cain's murdering reads like the recalling of a traditional story whose teller will not belabor familiar detail. In Van Aerde's *Cain*, the detail is imagined from the Biblical summary and is spoken in harmonizing language.

Of the two—plotting and expression, the first, at least, is an awesome achievement. The events could scarcely be more fittingly arranged one with the other, and all—with the Bible's cryptic notations.

The exiled Adam will not talk about paradise. Eve, driven perhaps by "the passion to revel in beauty and to say it aloud," describes the lost garden for the child Cain. In his first and immature longing—for the garden's birds and river and flowers—he runs away from his parents. The journey fails. "Paradise, my little one, is lost. The lost paradise cannot be regained."

Cain's second quest for paradise is a rebellion against Jahve: He punishes the innocent children of sinners with exile, and curses their fields with drought. In the garden finally, the strong and proud Cain is vanquished by Uriel, Michael's page. Jahve will not have Cain killed, but warned to return, obedient, to Adam and Eve, whose prayers have saved him. "And Cain cried and tasted the salt."

In these early episodes, Cain becomes a distinct, coherent, credible character, such a man as would, without belief and love, sacrifice to Jahve. Having seen a plague cover his fields, and hating the reason for his wife's pain in childbirth, Cain agrees to try for the peace that is Abel's constant enjoyment. But Jahve sees into Cain's heart, and rejects the smoke of his offering. In fury, Cain calls upon his brother: ". . . Curse Jahve with me." Abel, refusing, falls under the great strength of Cain.

Similar enrichment of Biblical statement has the murderer Cain flee from Adam's posterity, found a race, and establish it in the luxurious city of men, Enochiah. Here, after the destruction of the first wayward child of God, Cain must know that his race is possessed. He leaves the city, carrying death with him, and shouting the name of the possessor.

The Englishing of the Dutch manuscript has force at the story's needs. It is frequently as rich as poetry, infrequently jagged enough to annoy.

Van Aerde's conclusion—that Cain's sin in his defeat—is Biblical. The summary Biblical lesson, however, is here made uniquely vivid by Van Aerde's entire conception of Cain: a logical, immediate but creative expansion of the Genesis account.

The stunning woodcuts manifest the same dramatic modality as the text.

A Roman Entertainment

BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB
The Ides of March

Thornton Wilder Harper, $2.75

A "fantasia" on the last days of the Roman Republic. The author is not interested in historical reconstruction. Some of the characters are invented, and some events transferred to different dates. If a document is necessary to the sequence, the author creates one that will fulfill his purpose.

He succeeds in making the story seem plausible, achieves a rare atmosphere of contemporareity. Caesar is pictured as a hard-working dictator who keeps up a voluminous correspondence. The whole thing is a series of letters passing between the various characters or intercepted, if necessary to the story. Altogether, a rather interesting satire, with, perhaps, some philosophical import for the present day.

One significant aspect unnoticed or ignored by secularist reviews is the interest posited of Caesar in the question of God. In private a "theoretical atheist" with scant sympathy for the elaborate liturgy of the Pantheon, he is ever haunted by the possibility of a supreme and almighty Deity. This may be interpreted as Mr. Wilder's graceful way of indicating the foreshadowing of the Son of God and the birth of Christianity. Such as Caesar were surely paving the way for it, if only by doubting their own skepticism.

When Truth Is Romantic

Heart in Pilgrimage

Evelyn Eaton & Edward Roberts Moore Harper, $2.75

Reviewed by Helene Magaret, Ph.D., author "Father DeSmet" and "Gailhac of Beziers."

"Unless love reach the soul it is not immortal, for the soul alone is blessed with immortality." These are the words that Antonio Filicci spoke to Elizabeth Seton shortly after her husband's death. And when it was time for Elizabeth to leave Italy, Antonio's wife, Amabilia, urging her husband to accompany the American woman, said to him, ". . . I should not rest easy if she went alone . . . perhaps God is requiring some sacrifice of us, for her conversion." Thus Signor Filicci brought the young widow of his American friend back to New York, struggling all the way for the conversion of her soul. Then he left her to unavoidable poverty, misunderstanding and persecution; but not before establishing unlimited credit for her at John Murray & Son, New York.

A time came when that credit was no longer necessary, for Elizabeth Seton had become Mother Seton, Foundress and Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph in Baltimore. The generous manner in which her five children shared their mother with the pupils of her school and adjusted themselves to a new way of living is delightfully told in this novel. So is everything else—the picture of early New York, when the population was only 33,000; when European refugees, streaming from ship deck to wharf, knelt in the mud to thank God for their safe arrival; when the Jays and the Roosevelts, the Setons and the Bayleys dined together; and when the China trade, the West Indian trade and the Yellow Fever made the colorful background of their lives.

How easily the authors might have been carried away by the glamor of this setting! Instead, they have handled it as rigorously as an artist who is content to subdue the folds of a garment for the sake of heightening the face above it. Elizabeth Seton is always there, vivid and alive, moving across the bright patterns of the world, but never becoming lost in them. Yet the full portrait of wife, mother and nun does not exclude equally effective treatment of her husband Will Seton; of the kind-hearted, humanitarian doctor who was her father, and of the amazing Antonio Filicci, who was capable of loving a woman's soul without coveting her body.

Is any story of early American life more romantic than this? More worthy to be told? Let us be thankful that the authors have told it so skillfully, never slipping into bathos, always dexterously walking the tightrope between realism and romance, between history and the dream.

This is a book to be read by everyone and to be remembered forever.

Futility and Despair in Cambridge Milieu

The Light and the Dark

C. P. Snow Mac, $3.00

Reviewed by Mary E. L. Hennigan.

Mr. Snow's beautifully written book is much more a study of character than a novel. Since the characters are portrayed largely through the author's lucid descriptions of them—physical, mental, spiritual—rather than by their own actions, the tempo of the story is slow, calm, and most academic.

Lewis Eliot, a young lawyer at Cambridge, tells the tale about his intimate friend, Roy Calvert, linguist, Oriental scholar, a fellow of the same college before he is much over 25, signally honored by a great German university before he is 29. The "Light and Dark" of the title are the shades of Roy's character, the light being his natural charm, gaiety, simple kindness and particularly his peculiarly great gift of loving and inspiring love in others. The dark is the deep melancholy into which he is all too frequently plunged because he sees no purpose in life, because, Eliot would have us believe, he is seeking God, vainly. These fits of melancholy, rooted as they are in Roy's feeling of futility and despair, lure him steadily toward self-destruction, a goal which he finally reaches by the very gentlemanly and praiseworthy expedient of enlisting in the air force!

This book should be reviewed by a scholar, preferably a pagan one. Justice cannot be done it by a reader whose whole philosophy of life is based on the simple truth that God cannot be escaped but pursues His own though they flee Him "down all the corridors of time." Sympathy for the main character cannot be aroused in those who have beeen taught to look for God first on His altars, then in life's daily round of duties, done in His name and offered up to His greater glory.

Such readers will close this book with a feeling of contempt for a great scholar whose search for God brought him to the bed of every woman, high or low, virtuous or promiscuous, in whom he inspired "love"; who finally married one of his mistresses—and one who besides having been the mistress of many of his friends was at the moment engaged to one of them, a clergyman—because, forsooth, Roy Calvert "needed" a child!

The Light and the Dark impresses this reviewer as a morass of futility and despair and complacent acceptance of immorality as the norm. Mr. Snow intends the book as one of a series depicting various phases of life in these times. Perhaps, in a later one, he may lift us a little out of the swamp.

CLUB WOMEN PROTEST

Members of the Federation of Women's clubs in Pennsylvania in a letter to *Publisher's Weekly,* say that:

". . . We feel that in the field of fiction there is a growing tendency to misinterpret the tastes and interests of the intelligent critical discerning audience provided by members of women's clubs.

"The present critical acceptance of so much that offends the taste, susceptibilities, and standards of the average reader; the assumption that shock technique is necessary to hold interest and build sales; the slipshod superficial writing and thinking that characterize so much of today's fiction:—all this indicates a trend to lower standards and hasty judgment which make many of us, to whom a good book is a treat to which we look forward, feel hesitant any longer to accept the reliability of the publishers' and the critics' judgment. . ."

The article states that the women were stirred to this protest by a speech made by Virginia Kirkus in which she had declared that women can do much to get what they want by expressing their opinions where they will be heard by the right persons.

TRADE CORNER NOTES FOR BOOK BUYERS

How to Order

Dear Editor:

Appreciating your efforts to improve the book situation through the elimination of wasteful practices, I would like to have you see what you can do to help solve one of our difficulties. From our experience, we believe that other dealers must have problems similar to our own.

I refer to the great expense we are caused by receiving orders from the same people under three or four different names.

We give library discounts to established libraries, on what we think is an honest basis. We give these discounts because we expect cooperation *in the way of having orders placed with us that are of* library size, *having the name of the author, title and publisher given where possible, and having the order signed by the librarian, so that we won't have to correspond with numerous other people.*

What can you suggest?

Answer: We believe this problem is on the way to being remedied. When epidemics get too bad something is usually done about them. Rising costs are focusing attention on the necessity for less waste. You are embarrassed, and suffer losses through increased correspondence, caused by the lack of attention to detail, but so also is your customer. The problem will never be completely solved. I read of the same thing happening when I was a boy. There will always be errors, but errors are becoming increasingly expensive, and every effort should be made to enlist the cooperation of customers, since, in the long run, they pay, in the way of higher prices, for all waste.

One simple suggestion, if carried out would save untold waste—namely, that orders be written in the form of orders, rather than as letters. For example:

Ship and charge (*Name & Add.*)
The following:
(*Title of books*)
Signed by.....

The *name of the account* should be same as that under which *remittance* is to be made. If there is any later correspondence, it should be *under the same name.* And, of course, a *copy* of the order, *dated,* should be kept by the customer.

When the shipment arrives, the books received should be checked off on the copy of the order, which may then be transferred to the closed file.

Librarians will be quick to cooperate in these matters, once they see the amount of time they can save for themselves. An increasing number of libraries are now using Order Numbers on all orders. Place this Order Number on your invoice *and* Shipping Label, and it will save time for your customer.

In behalf of dealers, may we also make an appeal to librarians—first, to keep *orders* separate from other *correspondence*—second, always give the *name of the account* when corresponding. To make this matter clear, please allow me to cite an example.

I have before me three letters written to the Thomas More Book Shop. The first is on the letterhead of a Convent, to whom the order was presumably to be charged, although it does not say so.

The second letter, which has to do with the same order, is on the letter head of a High School, and is signed by the librarian. It introduces two new matters, but cannot be answered until the first letter has been located.

The third letter pertains to both the first and second, and includes further new matter, but is signed in the name of an individual, and does not mention either the convent or the high school.

No one of these matters can be taken care of promptly without delaying one or more of the others. One is on the way through the mill under one name and another under another name. Both must be searched out, and when located the question is one of how to avoid delaying one of the requests while answering another. Frequently the only solution is to make a copy of one part of the letter before sending the balance of the letter on to another department.

We have a solution for most of these problems, but it's working out very slowly—and that solution is to provide libraries and librarians with more time, facilities, and funds, with which to carry out their work.

The February issue of BOT is a literary feast. Where else could one find such a wealth of valuable critical material gathered from the best sources and presented in such readable form?

Sister M. Teresine,
Rosary College
River Forest, Ill.

Book-of-the-Month Club and Thomas More Book Club

BY WAY OF CLARIFICATION . . .

Our mail is frequently confused through errors in addressing us as *Book-of-the-Month Club.* There *is* a club of that name—the oldest of the large clubs.

Our name is *The Thomas More Book Club.* We have no connection with any other club. Checks made payable to Book-of-the-Month Club and sent to us must be returned. We cannot endorse checks made payable to someone else.

Please address us always as

The Thomas More Book Club
220 W. Madison St., Chicago 6.

NOTE: The Thomas More Book Club is operated at present by The Thomas More Book Shop—at the same address. Correspondence intended for the Club should be kept separate from that intended for the Shop. Otherwise, delays are unavoidable.

SPECIAL SERVICE

The Thomas More Book SHOP *does* operate a special service for members of the *Book-of-the-Month Club.*

This service came about because many subscribers to BOOKS ON TRIAL had been writing us for *advance* appraisals of the books offered by the B-o-t-M Club. Members of the B-o-t-M Club wanted our opinion before deciding whether to accept or reject the books offered. They needed this information *before* the books were published—oftentimes before we had read the books.

Consequently, we arranged to have the *Book-of-the-Month Club* send us advance copies, with permission to send out appraisals before the "rejection date." We give our candid opinion of the books offered. It is then up to the club member to decide whether he wants them.

We do not actively solicit memberships in the B-o-t-M Club, but we will accept applications. Anyone who is already a member, and who wants the advance information, may have his membership *transferred to us* by writing the B-o-t-M Club in New York to that effect. They will take care of the further details. There is no charge for our service. If further information is required, address

The Thomas More Book Shop
220 W. Madison St.
Chicago 6, Illinois.

THINGS THEOLOGICAL

Romance of Repentance

Saint Margaret of Cortona
François Mauriac (tr. Bernard Frechtman) Phil. Lib., $3.00
Reviewed by J. M. Lelen, Ph.D.

It may be against all the canons of criticism, but it is meet to mention that we have read this romance of repentance at a single stretch. Enticed by curiosity, by the alluring titles of the chapters, and the fascinating facts of the story—the strange, stern spectacle of a soul laid bare, a sinful soul purified by penance—we began when "the curfew tolled the end of parting day" and we finished when "the cock that is the trumpet to the morn, did awake the cock of day."

Some proof (is it not?), that the book is valiantly interesting and instructive. That it will appeal to many men and women, even those seldom associated with asceticism, we have no doubt. Yes, it will, for the fact is that we all are poor sinners—even a saint on his knees, if he be sincere, has to admit that he is a heap of sinful clay. And so it is more or less your life and my life that we see, or should see, reflected in the life of a penitent. And what is more appealingly dramatic than the vision of sin, the vision of man, a speck of sand, the infinitesimally small daring to challenge God, the Infinitely Great?

Verily the story here takes on the rhythm, the other-worldiness of epic tragedy. I have never praised Mauriac before, but now I must say that here he is at his best: here he opens his veins and dips the pen in his blood. His seems to be an unearthly power.

He wrote this book in 1943; he was then 58 years old; he lived in the midst of a monotonous horror. In his house "there was a German in every room. An enemy accordion groaned near the kitchen. Whether it was sunny or whether the rain streamed against the panes, the landscape was hopeless." Some of the pages are interrupted "because heavy boots were shaking the ceiling or because the fanfares of the great German Master-State were announcing over the radio a Reich victory."

What is the moral value of the book? It is excellent. It is theologically sound and safe doctrine, though sometimes severe. Mauriac is so steeped in Pascal that he unconsciously has not only his style but his substance. Once, only once, he is seemingly disrespectful of "the pious diplomats of today with the violet sashes." He forgot himself and we forgive him. But, oh, the gems that we get and gain here and there: "O Christ, I gave you that lash, that slap, that spit." A reminiscence, of course, of St. Paul, and of Pascal: "In My Agony I have shed that drop of blood for you." And this: "My place was among the executioners." And this: "God, the Almighty Patient One, Whom three nails immobilized on the cross." And this: "The past must be abandoned to God's mercy, the present to our fidelity, the future to Divine Providence."

And what of the translation? It is fair, but a rendering from the French is always a surrendering, unless the worker be bilingual like Hilaire Belloc. Amusing are some of the misinterpretations here. For instance, the author speaks of *la fille-mere,* literally the girl-mother, the unwedded mother. Comes M. Frechtman with "the daughter-mother," which is nonsensical.

But let that pass. All in all we have here a noble piece of work. A book like this may start a new method of hagiography which will give us saints that are alive; plaster-saints no more. Indeed, this is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

SYMPATICO STEINBECK

The Pearl
John Steinbeck Viking, $2.00
Reviewed by Carl M. Fischer.

In transcribing for the short novel this Mexican folk tale of the tragedy which comes to a poor pearl fisherman who finds The Pearl, John Steinbeck strikes all the notes with his usual masterful skill. The student of style and the student of morals will find much that pleases in that the beautiful simplicity of the prose is well-suited to the setting, characters and allegorical meaning of the story.

Consequently, it may seem picayune and prejudiced to complain about Steinbeck's insistence on getting in some social significance such as the references to the money-grubbing of the clergy and the blight of the Spaniards. Not only are these comments out of focus in themselves, but they blur the parable, which undoubtedly has stood these many years without Mr. Steinbeck's tamperings.

Foreign Missioner ---to His Countrymen

Priest-Workman in Germany
Henri Perrin, S.J. (tr. Rosemary Sheed) S & W, $2.50
Reviewed by Rev. G. J. Gustafson, S.S., Ph.D., Editor, "The Priest" magazine.

Father Perrin served as foreign missioner to his fellow-countrymen; and, as he sets down his fascinating story here, it was in an altogether extraordinary way. Volunteering to serve as laborer in German munition factories, he sought to reach the thousands of Frenchmen conscripted by Nazi overlords—Frenchmen no one had reached at home.

This is not, the publishers advise us, a "book of Gestapo horrors"; but there are, for all that, horrors in it enough. We do not refer to anything this apostolic young priest suffered physically, from blows, bad food, cramped quarters, accusation, and inquisition; but to his anguish of mind as he witnessed massive indifference or hostility all about him—an anguish, incidentally, which is highly infectious.

Complained a Nazi inspector: Catholics, quoting Encyclicals to salve their (perhaps too easily salvable) consciences, *do* nothing. Father Perrin, we fear, does not feel he can quite answer the charge. The Catholics of his acquaintance are too often timid: "Two expressions," he writes, "incessantly came to mind to describe our attitude . . . that *inferiority complex* which marks Catholics, and the *ghetto* to which in practise we so often fled. . . Thousands of Christians," he fears, "Christians only by force of circumstance, the ghosts of Christians, will gradually fall away like dead leaves."

His own message in view of the discouraging demoralization brought on by spiritual waste and war is the age-old clarion call of the Gospel: "So let your light shine before men. . . ." The demoralization itself he pictures in the most disturbing way, more effectively because his tone is so matter of fact, so measured, so knowing. Animated by a strong sense of our role in the Mystical Body, its urgency, its relevancy, and its complete adequacy, he asks that we "uncover Christ's face" for the de-christianized.

Inadequate Introduction?

Dr. Harrold Plants Doubts—Fr. Joseph Holds

Apologia pro Vita Sua
The Idea of a University
A Grammar of Assent
ed. Charles Frederick Harrold
L G, ea. $3.50
Reviewed by Joseph M. O'Leary, C.P.

This new edition of the Works of Newman has been eagerly awaited. By his two earlier volumes on Newman, Dr. Harrold had made himself a debtor to his own readers—to provide for them the works of the master himself. On that debt, the editor has now made a substantial first payment with the publication of these three basic works of Newman.

In type and format, the volumes are worthy of the great tradition that has associated the writings of Newman with the firm of Longmans, Green. The texts have been edited with scholarly care and efficiency.

This reviewer, however, is greatly disappointed in Dr. Harrold's introduction to the *Apologia*. In his judgment, the introduction is inadequate and somewhat unfair.

A preliminary question may be raised in all fairness: How much and what kind of editorial comment is meet and proper in a *definitive* edition of works long accepted as English literature and lovingly cherished by intelligent and devoted readers? This question is especially pertinent in the case of a publishing firm associated with the author himself. Such an association implies high trust and calls for exceptional responsibility. There is reason to believe that John Henry Newman would find Dr. Harrold's Introduction to the *Apologia* painfully inadequate.

The Introduction—that is, the decisive critical pages (XVIII-XXI) is inadequate because it does not give the reader, especially an uninitiated reader, sufficient material on which to judge for himself in a matter of supreme importance—*the matter of Newman's sincerity and the value of his self-analysis.* These few pages do not make sufficiently clear the mind of the editor himself.

A careful study of Dr. Harrold's handling of these subjects in his own *John Henry Newman: A Critical Study* (312-317; 369-73), suggests that in the present Introduction he is too much influenced by the recent work of Walter E. Houghton, *The Art of Newman's Apologia.* Dr. Harrold does not make clear his own estimate of Houghton's criticism, nor does he call attention to the criticisms made of Houghton's volume. Pages XVIII-XXI of the Introduction *are in reality and substantially the thought of Houghton* (*Art,* 94, 96, 97, 102, 106, 111, 112). There is much more to John Henry Newman's conversion and his *Apologia* than the following of "his sinuous and probing mind from Oxford and Littlemore to Rome and Birmingham."

Scanty Bibliography

That "much more" suggests some unfairness in Dr. Harrold's Introduction—not intentional unfairness but rather consequential. The "Select Bibliography" is not adequate. No mention is made of the important studies published in America, England, and Ireland on occasion of the centenary of Newman's conversion. The Bibliography (three non-Catholic and two Catholic works, arranged alphabetically) makes an unfortunate impression by placing first the work of F. L. Cross, *John Henry Newman.*

In this work is made, as Houghton points out (*Art,* 97), "the only serious charge ever made against the truth of the *Apologia.*" Dr. Harrold himself had judged the criticism of Cross as "cogent, though still inadequate—excessively severe judgment—only partially valid." (Harrold, *John Henry Newman,* 313, 314, 316). Now comes Houghton (*Art,* 99) to assert that Cross's "main thesis is still intact," though he (Houghton) admits that Cross at times is "much too hasty" (99) or "seems to overlook" (102) certain considerations. Dr. Harrold sees fit to give so prominent a place, "definite consideration" (Introd. XIX), to Houghton's analysis of Newman's motives without making clear his own personal reaction. That, we submit, is not fair to John Henry Newman, or to his readers.

In conclusion, we wish to stress the fact that the considerations suggested at the beginning on publisher and editorial responsibility necessarily condition all that follows in our criticism. These volumes are not merely *occasional or special reprints,* where a larger measure of editorial comment might be proper or welcome, but they are the first offerings of what must be taken as *a definitive edition* of John Henry Cardinal Newman's works.

While not questioning the critical ability or the intentions of Dr. Harrold or his right to express his own opinions and convictions, we submit that the *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* should be allowed to speak for itself. Had Dr. Harrold ended his Introduction at the bottom of page XVIII, he would have shown much greater courtesy to John Henry Newman. An adequate bibliography is easily accessible to those who have "read the *Apologia*" and who wish to answer the question, "what is one to think of it?" (Introd. XVIII).

Literary Loons

"A good many literary fellows like John Dos Passos are getting up in meeting these days to confess that they were fools ever to have put any faith in communism. They have wrestled the devil into defeat and now they are cleansed and filled with rejoicing over their salvation. . . .

"He was one of the American authors whose works were widely acclaimed in soviet Russia. He was received there with honor. Now, as he has reported recently in *Life* magazine, he knows he was not using his bean. . .

"Mr. Dos Passos now marvels that he and a good many other literary gents of his generation could have been so blind to reality . . . as ever to have been taken in by the patter and pretense of the Marxians. Eugene Lyons, Max Eastman, and many others have experienced the same awakening. . .

"By and large, the main trouble with the literary Marxians has been that, though sharp in disputation, they are slow in perception. They have an extraordinary capacity for misreading men and events. . .

"Mr. Dos Passos' article in *Life* can be read as the Luce publication's tardy apology to its readers for its war-time propaganda on Russia's behalf. The issue of March 29, 1943, for example, was wholly devoted to the soviets, with Stalin on the front cover, Lenin hailed as 'perhaps the greatest man of modern times,' and pages devoted to an interview with former Ambassador Davies which doesn't assay an ounce of truth to the ton. The whole number evidences the studied inaccuracy to which the Luce publications are devoted. . ."

—*Chicago Tribune*

New Biblical Studies

Reviewed by Richard T. Murphy, O.P., S.T.D., S.S. Prolyta

The Canticle of Canticles
Wm. Pouget & Jean Guitton
(tr. J. L. Lilly, C.M.) McMullen, $3.00

Attempts to solve the charming enigma we know as the Canticle of Canticles have ranged from the utter crudity of those who look upon it as a collection of fleshly love songs (how could such have found their way into the sacred Bible?), to the ecstatic flights of mystical writers for whom the Canticle represents the union of Christ with the Church, or with the Blessed Virgin, or with the individual soul. A safe middle position looks upon the Canticle as depicting in parabolic language the relationship between God and His Chosen People.

M. Guitton advances the attractive theory (it is not new) that the Canticle is a lyrical drama. The players are King Solomon, a shepherd, and the shepherd's beautiful wife, who remains faithful to her husband despite the ardent advances of the king. The text is so arranged as to bring out the dialogue, and there are twelve scenes.

The various arguments in favor of this interpretation are discussed in the lengthy introduction. The reader will probably find the text more interesting; it is a new translation. The theory of P. Pouget, popularized and developed by M. Guitton, is plausible and very ably presented. *The only grave objection is that, as far as we know, the Orientals did not practice this type of writing.*

The Apocalypse of Saint John
R. J. Loenertz, O.P.
(tr. H. J. Carpenter, O.P.)
S & W, $2.50

The Apocalypse was written about 94-96 A.D. by the last living Apostle, who intended thus to console and strengthen the early Christians by a series of pictures portraying the triumph of the Church at the end of time. Traced out in awesome visions is the unending battle that rages between good and evil. Only one issue is possible to this conflict where God supervises, limits, and controls the powers of darkness. Even if the persecutions unleashed against the Church had, behind them, all the redoubtable might of Rome and the Emperors, Christians should not be disheartened, but should patiently await their deliverance and God's victory.

It has long been noted that the Apocalypse abounds in symbolical numbers, especially in *sevens*. There are sevens of almost everything: messages, seals, trumpets, vials, etc. The author of this book believes he has discovered seven groups of sevens, a "septenary of septenaries," and offers what he believes to be the authentic plan of the Apocalypse, together with a commentary based on that division. Ten pages of introduction explain the plan, 35 give the text (Douai version), and this is followed by a brief, pertinent commentary, conveniently divided into 165 sections, and following in the main the classical work of P. Allo.

Here then is a handy little book that sheds light on *the* mystery-book of the New Testament. Not full light of course (it is only 148 pages), but enough to whet the appetite to delve more deeply into the revelations granted to the Seer of the isle of Patmos.

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- - Father to the Man

Journey into Faith: The Anglican Life of John Henry Newman
Eleanor Ruggles Norton, $4.00
Reviewed by Roger McHugh, assistant professor of English literature, National University of Ireland, currently visiting lecturer at the University of Wisconsin; Abbey Theatre playwright, Newman authority.

In his university writings Newman makes a necessary distinction, which might still be taken to heart, between the advancement of knowledge, which is the proper field of the research-worker, and its diffusion, which is the business of the educator.

Journey Into Faith belongs to the latter type of writing. It is simply, as it claims, the story of the outward circumstances that contributed to Newman's inward change. Yet those circumstances were so complex and that change so momentous that any writer might well quail before the task of simple narration. Miss Ruggles has succeeded so well that her book is not only readable but moving. She seems to have taken to heart what Newman said about his own writing; that his single aim and desire in writing was to express clearly and exactly his meaning.

Here Newman's life from his early years to the days of the Littlemore crisis is focused clearly and the sense of his development communicated as much by a careful notation of its reactions upon his family, his friends, and his antagonists as by the central record of his search for truth.

Those who have traversed this ground before will find little that is new. The general reading public should welcome this book as a clear and interesting introduction to at least the *Apologia* and the *Grammar of Assent*. It also abounds in touches that light up a human personality which otherwise might appear too formal:

Ye do it wrong, being so majectical
To offer it the show of violence

is perhaps the warning that has stood between many a well-intentioned reader and the sympathetic study of a man who described himself as resembling a page of history, dry and formal.

But here we see him as the earnest son of a freethinking father; as the youth enthusiastically denouncing in bad verse the "mistaken worship" of Catholicism; as the Trinity failure and the spectacular Oriel victor; as the companion of Keble, Pusey, Froude and that curious figure Blanco White, who forecast his Catholicism before any of them; and as one who moved inevitably towards loneliness and leadership. Curiously enough, this portrait of Newman reminds one at many points of the author of *The Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*, who attended Newman's university, admired his prose and summed up its quality in two memorable words, "silver-veined cloistral."

WHAT ARE SHEED & WARD DOING THIS SPRING?

Oh' all manner of things: thirteen new books coming out, and several older ones coming back into print, now we can get a few extra sheets of paper to print them on. Here are some of the new ones:

PRIEST-WORKMAN IN GERMANY by Henri Perrin, S.J.

The diary of a young French priest in the labor camps and prisons of war-time Germany. Not allowed to go to the camps as a priest he went as a worker, only to find the other workers did not want a priest at all. How he met this situation is something that will keep you awake till you finish the book. ($2.50 Ready)

CASE HISTORY OF JAPAN by Francis J. Horner

The Japanese character and way of life are undoubtedly odd. Mr. Horner, who has spent many years in Japan studying their language, literature, history and religion, tells us both how they got that way, and what can be done about it. ($3.00 April)

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI compiled by Otto Karrer

All the contemporary writings about St. Francis and his own works, in a new translation, with an historical introduction, a commentary and notes by a scholar who is first in this field: could anyone who loves St. Francis ask more? ($3.00 Ready)

THE HUMAN WISDOM OF ST. THOMAS arranged by Josef Pieper

A digest of St. Thomas's philosophy for handy reference. The material is selected and arranged with such skill that even a reader untrained in philosophy discovers at once why he is regarded as such a great man. ($2.00 Ready)

HOW TO ENJOY POETRY by Robert Farren

The terrific gusto with which the author writes of the joys of poetry and how to get at them makes his book almost irresistible even to a reader with maximum resistance to verse. ($3.00 April)

THE MEANING OF MAN by Jean Mouroux

The Christian interpretation of man's nature and his place in society, showing among other things how much more fun a man can get out of this world if he sees it in its right relation to the next. ($4.00 April)

THE DEATH OF SOCRATES by Romano Guardini

Four of the Dialogues of Plato, with a running commentary by Guardini in the course of which he covers every aspect of the Christian idea of death. It's a surprisingly gay book. ($3.00 April)

GOD THE FATHER by Emile Guerry

Meditations on the First Person of the Blessed Trinity by a French Bishop. This is the only book on God the Father we have ever seen, so it's as well it's a really good one. ($2.50 Ready)

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PEOPLE & PROBLEMS

Jim Farley's Story—A Lesson for America

THOMAS MORE BOOK CLUB
Jim Farley's Story, The Roosevelt Years
James A. Farley Whittlesey, $3.50

In comparison with this story of American politics, any novel of the same period pales into insignificance. Few writers of fiction could think up the situations James A. Farley reveals as facts. And none who knows Farley's record will question the sincerity of the man who regretfully came to a parting of the ways with one he could no longer respect, nor trust—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Following the publication of a part of this story in a national magazine, many readers were bitterly resentful. They said that if F.D.R. had so many petty, spoiled-boy attributes Farley should have either deserted sooner or kept quiet later. Reading this book will bring a different conclusion.

In Washington, men grow, or swell. There is ample basis for the belief that Farley grew immeasurably in stature. There is equal evidence that Roosevelt's ego swelled to the bursting point. There is no reason for not believing that Roosevelt's stubborn vindictiveness, nursing of grudges, and desire for power may not color the future for a century. And this is not partisan opinion. Staunch advocates of the original New Deal came to an admission of their lack of foresight. Philosophical observers like Thomas F. Woodlock saw the trend as early as 1933. (See *Thinking It Over*, by Thomas F. Woodlock, $3.00.)

James A. Farley was a practical politician. As a "political drummer" he was credited by many with selling F. D. R. to the Democrats in 1931. He was a *party* man then; and to the end, when even the President of the United States could not persuade him to remain as national chairman of the Democratic party. He kept voluminous diaries. They reveal drama, and high patriotism on the part of national characters, and they also picture perfidy at its lowest. Those who watched the New Deal develop as they expected it would will say "I told you so." Many others will denounce Jim Farley as an ingrate. The majority, no doubt, will just drift along with neither interest nor opinion, neglectful of their obligations of citizenship, careless of the future.

An ex-Congressman speaking at The Sheil School of Social Studies in Chicago recently defined the New Deal by saying that to him it meant Social Security, The Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Housing, TVA, and similar agencies. Mr. Farley says he believes Arthur Krock of the New York *Times* was accurate when he quoted Harry Hopkins as having said, "We will spend and spend, and tax and tax, and elect and elect." He confirms the belief of those who recall that at a time when Secretary Ickes was carrying on a war against business "the President was seeing more leaders of industry than he had ever seen, in *a desperate search for a way out of the slough of recession* into which his New Deal was sinking."

Mr. Farley is rather vitriolic in his characterizations of much-publicized figures. Tommy Corcoran is "only a peanut in a sugar barrel." LaGuardia would desert any cause in a moment for his own advantage. The people around the President in his declining days had no interest except in staying in power. Roosevelt demeaned himself by not keeping out of local affairs. (This seems to have led to the final break) Mayor Kelly of Chicago, at the national convention (Farley told the President), "acted as though he were running a ward caucus. The performance of the 'voice of the sewers' was beyond all decency."

Wallace, per Vice President Garner, was dangerous, not because he was bad at heart, but because he didn't know where he was going.

Roosevelt was not "drafted" for the third term. He maneuvered himself into the nomination. And having been elected for a third term, he almost immediately began scheming to control delegations for the fourth term nomination.

Farley pictures himself as having been opposed to the third term, to "court-packing," to the purging of those who refused to be dictated to, and to numerous other actions of the President. He pictures Roosevelt as a man extremely jealous of anyone who might become a rival or achieve such popularity as might make him a presidential candidate.

The great lesson of this book is in its depiction of the manner in which *great power distorts perspective and endangers democracy.* Whether one agrees with James A. Farley's version or not, his book should be *required reading for every voter.*

Manual for Patriots

Our American Government—The Answers to 1001 Questions on How It Works
Wright Patman, M.C. Z-D, $1.50—$2.75
Reviewed by Rev. Bernard J. Fleming, Professor of history, Cardinal Hayes High School, New York.

Today more and more Americans are showing keen interest in the workings of their government. To these millions of average citizens a timely and much needed handbook is now available in Congressman Patman's book.

Here the machinery of our government is taken apart, as it were, and each of its functions is subject to question and answer scrutiny—the questions well selected, the answers uniformly clear and concise. For busy people—and how few are not! —this direct method is most pleasing and practical. In addition, there are a number of interesting and enlightening illustrations.

The harassed student, well-informed reader, the busy teacher, as well as the average man with his newspaper and radio, will find in this book a quick, accurate, up-to-the-minute source of information as to just what makes this or that part of our government tick. More important, however, is its usefulness as a manual for patriots. We, as Americans, believe that we have the best government in the world. It therefore behooves us to know it better, especially in this day, when its ideals of the sanctity of human rights and the principles of truly representative government are being trampled upon by totalitarian regimes.

Reading and re-reading this book will produce a greater understanding of and respect for democratic form of government and should engender a greater desire to perpetuate its ideals.

Why We Offer Variety

Your book club selections seem to be rather stuffy and more or less the kind of reading for a University Professor—not the kind of reading for enjoyment. At least that is what your advance write-ups lead me to believe. P.S. How about more books like *The Miracle of the Bells.*

Michael W. Bartos, Chicago

The Power Behind the "Flivver"

The Last Billionaire: Henry Ford
W. C. Richards Scribner, $3.75

Henry Ford
Cy Caldwell Messner, $2.75

A stubborn, opinionated, eccentric genius, Henry Ford, who died last April at the age of 83, changed the course of world industry and economics. One needs to know a lot of things to tell Mr. Ford's story properly. Both Mr. Richards and Mr. Caldwell have proved their competence—the first from his lookout as a reporter reminiscing in a series of *adult* character vignettes, the second as a straight chronological biographer whose audience-range is from high school up. The Caldwell book is the more useful of the two, and I hope it will enjoy the wide reading it deserves—especially by boys and young men.

In many ways, Henry Ford was still a barefoot boy at 80. His character was not rounded out. But his life can teach many lessons to modern youth.

When young Henry lost his mother at 12, he was already known as a boy who could make mechanical things work; studying and repairing any kind of tools or machinery was his greatest delight. His first earnings came from repairing watches. At 13, he built an engine from pieces of scrap metal, and it ran by steam. At 17, he left his father's farm for a machine shop job—eleven hours a day at $2.50 for a six-day week. Board and room cost $3.50 a week. Henry had to have another dollar, so he worked from seven o'clock each evening until eleven repairing watches.

Money never interested him except as a means to an end. His obsession was to learn how to do things better. He unconsciously dedicated himself with fanatical zeal to a life of service. Even when his profits ran into millions of dollars, they were only incidental. Money was only a tool.

Eventually, Henry got a raise—of 50 cents a week, but he left the job to take another at $2.50—a place where he could learn other new things. He still stuck to the watch repairing. After three years he still got $2.50 a week. But he worked in many other places, always learning. He had little patience for any kind of a job that was not difficult, or hard to do.

Back to the Farm

At 23, Ford returned to his father's farm. In his spare time he traded cattle, rented a portable sawmill, sawed wood for his neighbors, split shingles, and, having got hold of 40 acres, sawed up the trees and built his own house. He then proposed to Clara Bryant, a farm girl, and was accepted.

For only 15 hours work a day, Henry was making $30.00 a month. His father thought he was a fool when he left for Detroit for a $45 salary. Eventually he became chief engineer of the main Edison plant, at $125 a month. As this required only 12 hours daily work he used his spare time to design and build his first motor. At 33, without funds, he quit his job to go into business for himself—his wife agreed that it would be make or break.

At 40, the Ford company was started. The remainder of his story has been told many times. The early lessons of thrift and industry bore fruit. Ford was the first to establish basic working hours, and basic pay. In 1914 when the prevailing wage was $2.40 for nine hours, he startled the world by paying $5.00 for eight. It was not charity. He aimed to distribute profits, not donations. Workers rioted to get jobs in the Ford plant.

To Henry Ford, work was our greatest blessing—our sanity, self-respect, and salvation. There was no greater romance than the production line—no greater discouragement than to find that less than 5% of the people are willing to accept the responsibility that goes with higher positions.

Henry Ford learned that men resist mental effort, that the average man is not imaginative. (If he were, he would not be so prone to fall for our present-day nostrums.)

A Thousand Million Dollars

In his strange way Henry Ford was an idealist, with faith in men, work and service. Outside his chosen field he was a neophyte. For many years he led the world. Then time caught up. In a changing world he could no longer have his undisputed way. Labor problems interfered with his style. In 1926 he produced 41% of the country's cars, in 1941 only 16%, but he worked until almost the last.

To your editor, Ford's financial rise from a $28,000 company to a point where he could have sold out for a billion dollars is merely incidental, and comparatively unimportant, although it does point up the marvel that is America.

Value of Incentive

In this latter connection, I hope I may be pardoned for injecting a personal note. When the Ford Company was at its height in the early 20's, my then business partner and I invented a process which helped to reduce the cost of Ford cars. I figured that if the Ford Company used our scheme it could save a dime on the *cost* of each car, and that we could make 1c profit for ourselves out of the dime to be saved on each Ford vehicle. Today, there are some who would say we were not entitled to the penny, and I know that it could not be repeated under present conditions, any more than Henry Ford could repeat his so-called successes.

Our plan worked—with plenty of sweat and grease, and midnight oil—and we made our 1c profit on each Ford car, tractor and truck for the better part of a year. It was on this profit that we later built a business employing more than 700 people.

To make the matter clear, I should add that for the better part of that year the Ford purchases were at the rate of 10,000 per day, so *our* 10% of the *dime* we saved for Ford added up to approximately $100.00 per day.

I have always thought this was somewhat romantic, both as a measure of the size of America and as an example of the value of incentive.

BOOK CLUB AND DEALER SALES

Desmond & Stapleton, Publishers, Buffalo, say: "We are convinced that the four club selections we have had so far have helped enormously in the book store sales of the books chosen."

They point out that Frank Luther Mott in his *Golden Multitudes,* a history of best sellers in the United States, suggests that the way to insure a vast popular success for a book would be to have the publisher give away 100,000 copies; and that inasmuch as publishers do not do this, the next best device is the book club—since it puts a great many copies into circulation immediately—and thereby gets a great deal of advertising which would not have been secured in any other way.

"Poland Is the Test"

I Saw Poland Betrayed
Arthur Bliss Lane Bobbs, $3.50
Reviewed by Paul Kiniery, Ph.D., Department of History, Loyola University.

Better not read this book if you still believe that Franklin Delano Roosevelt could do no wrong. Better not read it, either, if you are simply looking for an attack upon the late president's character. In order to write this book, Mr. Lane, who had a distinguished career of more than 30 years in the State Department, voluntarily resigned. He wrote more in sorrow than in anger. He evidently is in agreement with the statement credited to Mr. Belloc, and made soon after the war broke out in 1939, "Poland is the test." Certainly no nation in history failed more miserably than England, in that test; Mr. Lane believes that our nation is in much the same position.

He discusses in minute detail the relations between the USSR and the Polish government in exile, based in London. He explains why the USSR favored the Soviet dominated Lublin Committee. The story becomes more interesting as Mr. Lane, with a wealth of unimpeachable source material, traces the relationship between Mr. Roosevelt and the Poles who were working in the election year of 1944 for a free Poland. As early as the Teheran conference of December, 1943, it seems evident that Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt had begun the dismemberment of Poland. This was carefully concealed in 1944, as the Polish vote here was important. The State Department, according to Mr. Lane, had no information on the Polish question, as Mr. Roosevelt dealt directly with Stalin and Churchill on that issue.

Mr. Lane maintains that a complete surrender of Poland, *and our honor as a nation,* was perpetrated at Yalta in February, 1945, by Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill. When Mr. Lane arrived at Warsaw as our ambassador, in July, 1945, the Soviet influence was paramount in Polish affairs. Poland was being looted by the Russians; the so-called Yalta agreements were being completely disregarded. Expediency had been tried by our government; dishonor was the result. Mr. Lane protested heroically, but to no effect. Under the watchful eye of the Polish president, Bierut, a Communist, Mr. Lane could see that Poland had become a part of the USSR, for all practical purposes. What that means for the Catholics in Poland needs no elaboration. *The book is painful and shocking, but honest and important.*

"Problems of a Catholic Writer"

Readers of *The Atlantic Monthly* article of the above title by Harry Sylvester will find in the March issue of *The Catholic World,* and in The National Edition of *The Register,* Feb. 1, mature, reasoned responses.

The Monitor, San Francisco, in its column "Of Books and Men," also carries some pithy and witty comment.

In addition to disposing adequately of Mr. Sylvester's pretensions, all three articles are highly commendable for their additional enlightening and informative content.

If You Read Only One Book In This Election Year
make it

IM FARLEY'S STORY

The Roosevelt Years

The Inside Story of National Politics

ere is the wide-open truth about two of the most controersial political figures in modern America: Franklin D. oosevelt and Jim Farley. These are the facts concerning e man who put Roosevelt into the White House and built one of the most brilliantly efficient party organizations is country has ever known.

The events and people Jim Farley talks about shaped merican history for fifteen years—and are right behind toy's headlines. This is breathtaking biography in the story two titans who piled triumph upon triumph until their al falling out.

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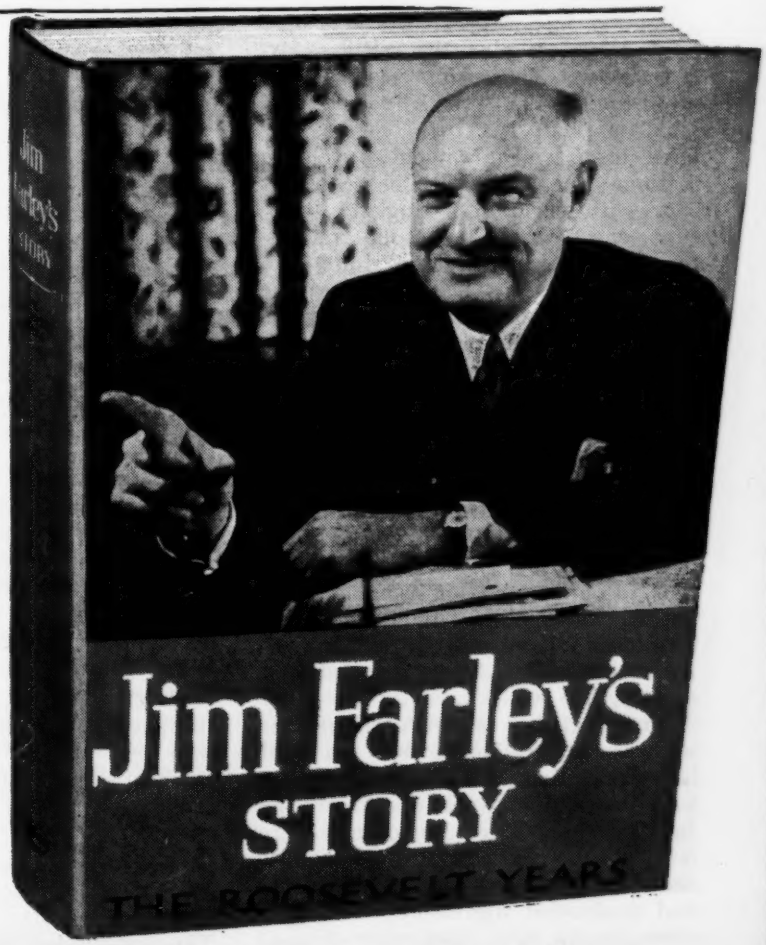

ARTS AND POETRY

Book Reviewing as a Fine Art

Literary Criticisms by Francis Thompson

Newly Discovered & Collected by Rev. Terence L. Connolly, S.J.

Dutton, $12.50

Reviewed by Rev. Thomas J. Grady.

This is not a collection of scraps, of juvenile works, of literary blunders cast aside by Thompson and hitherto rejected by editors. This large collection represents ten years of the mature Thompson's literary work as a critic. During the last years of his life, from 1896 to 1906, Thompson wrote numerous book reviews and a number of articles for the *Academy, Athenaeum, Merry England, Franciscan Annals.* Nearly all of these were unsigned. In 1938 while studying Thompson's notebooks, manuscripts, and letters Father Connolly discovered the key to identify these reviews and articles. Since the war he has traced them out and gathered them into the present volume.

Seldom has a great literary man been drawn to play the critic so exhaustively. Thompson speaks his mind on English, Irish, French, Italian, American literature. The reviews have been well arranged in eleven sections: one deals with biographies; four with periods in English literature; one with the technique and history of English literature; four with the literatures of other countries; one with mysticism; two with various subjects. Thompson ranges from St. Paul to Dean Inge, from St. Augustine's *Confessions* to D'Annunzio's *Dead City.*

The Leisurely Attack

The reviews and articles cover a wide range of literary subjects; but they do not do so lightly. Far from it. As one reads the reviews, one begins to think of Thompson as somehow timeless, almost immutable, unconcerned about now or afterwards. He comes up to his subject slowly, quietly. He walks around it, away from it and back again, turns it over with his finger. He picks it up as if it were a diamond, precious, worthy to be examined. He explains each facet of the subject. Sometimes there is just the leisurely, dispassionate examination; often equally leisurely and unabashed digression.

Thompson is a critic of unusual ability. Perhaps his chief virtues as a critic are his honesty, his sanity, and a peculiarly refined and attractive fairness or gentleness. Thompson regards the world as a whole, a unity, an organism. For him, all things are related to each other. The principle of relationship is stern reality, Truth. He measures values not according to a publisher's urge, the fashion of the hour, a school of thought, but according to correspondence with things as they are. For Robert Burns he had an understanding sympathy; for Matthew Arnold and Henry James, cold men, he had little affection. Yet he lays his finger as accurately on Burns' deficiencies as upon Arnold's and James' virtues.

Honesty, balance, fairness enabled him to see and express a poet's essential weakness or strength. From the present volume a valuable dictionary of English authors might be arranged: The names of many authors could be picked out and arranged alphabetically. After each name could be quoted a phrase or a sentence from Thompson which would reveal the core of the man.

"Touchstone" Method

In this volume Thompson covers most of the field of criticism. Its familiar terms are given his own explanation, definition, illumination. Strength is given to his discussion by the aptness wth which he illustrates his meaning. His examples, usually closely and fully analyzed, have extreme pertinence. His practical method of criticism is Arnold's "touchstone" method. In Thompson's hands this method becomes particularly valuable because it seems to open up avenues of investigation, to invite one to imitate, to continue the method in the direction indicated. His discussions are seminal. In the field of English literature his erudition enables him to shed much light on literary relationships and influences.

Rarely but at times his criticism flattens out to banality or he slips off into irrelevant tangents, worries over trivialities of grammar, or beclouds statement with unintelligible reference.

Of Dryden, Thompson says, "His sentences are not mere short yaps, like an excited cur." Nor are Thompson's sentences. They are long, with a serpentine, sinuous elegance. They have a sensuous opulence of verbal fecundity, fineness, precision, and articulation. By themselves alone, they fascinate one. Even his figures are amazing, as when he describes Katherine Tynan as a "sunrise which beats its sanguined wings like a flamingo across a southern water."

Through the critic shines the man: a man with a delicious, pervasive sense of humor; a man with tender but valiant loyalties to Alice Meynell, Patmore, England, the Church; a man very gentle yet deliberately right; a man languid and sensuous but wholly dedicated; a man sometimes fanciful but essentially wise.

This book is not a book to rush through. On the one hand, it is the spade work for many literary studies. On the other hand, it is an attractive friend to come to now and again.

Why Milwaukee Is Famous

Bucket Boy: A Milwaukee Legend

Ernest Ludwig Meyer Hastings, $3.00

Reviewed by P. Standish O'Conner.

A foamy Milwaukee legend, written with great good humor and delightful understatement, this story revolves around the Meyer home and friends (chiefly jocose pagans) and the old *Germania,* German-language daily in Milwaukee when the author's father was city editor. Title is taken from the best (the first is hilarious!) and recurrent episodes about Old Heinz the *Kesseljunge* (Bucket Boy), beer-runner for the paper's thirsty staff.

More memoir than otherwise, the story is merely a string of pleasant episodes depicting the joys of German life in Milwaukee around 1900, and illustrating some of the things that make Milwaukee a big city with a rare warm atmosphere.

Progress has had its course, and Milwaukee has changed since the days of the Bucket Boy. But beer still flows freely in the Beer Capital, and Milwaukeeans still love their music. Free-lunch counters are gone, as elsewhere, but Milwaukee's many German restaurants are still famous for their cuisine. . . . Anarchistic free-thinkers still abound, but according to the tenor of the times; now, communists congregate in a downtown bookstore by winter and proselytize from pitches in Red Arrow Park by summer. . .

Author Meyer's book is no complete cross-section of Milwaukee life: the large and active Catholic population is ignored. Only one aspect is pictured, but that picture is well drawn.

"The Largest & Most Comprehensive Soul"

So Worthy a Friend: William Shakespeare

Charles Norman Rinehart, $4.00

Reviewed by Msgr. I. J. Semper, author "Shakspere Study Guide," "Hamlet Without Tears," & other works.

Roughly speaking, biographies of Shakespeare fall into three classes: the monumental work of painstaking research, which is written for experts; the scholarly and readable narrative, which is intended for serious students; and the impressionistic study, which is aimed at the general public. *So Worthy A Friend* belongs in the third class.

By putting order into the vast amount of factual material unearthed by an investigation extending over two centuries, and by quoting relevant passages from legal and business documents, the writer succeeds in stressing the highlights of the poet's career. His justification for contributing a new volume to an already over crowded field is that he brings to his task "a practicing knowledge of the art of poetry." This equipment serves him well when he deals with the plays and the poems, where he makes his most telling points, as in the chapters on *As You Like It* and the *Sonnets.*

In the early chapters, however, he strikes a jarring note by indulging in several outbursts of anticlericalism, which negate the claim that he advances in the final chapter: "I came to the task with no preconceived notions." For instance, after outlining Marlowe's ideas on religion, he writes: "Religion has not checked, but rather inflamed the passions of men; and this is not to be wondered at, since in all ages, and in all lands, priests have blessed the poison and daggers of assassins, the plotting of factions, and the battle flags of nations marching to war."

The "People's" Theater

Again, in dealing with the opposition of Puritan preachers to the Elizabethan theater, he writes: "Ever since theatrical representations had left their swaddling clothes behind in the churches where they began, the clergy had been an enemy to the people's theater, as distinct from ecclesiastical or moral mummery. . . . It is not due to them that the theater started up at all, or that it became a permanent part of community life." Mr. Norman seems irked by the historical fact that our modern theater began in the Catholic Church of the Middle Ages, and hence he extends himself in an effort to deny the clergy any credit and to belittle mysteries like *The Second Shepherds' Play* and moralities like *Everyman.*

It is difficult to understand what he means by "the people's theater." For centuries the only theater patronized by the people was a theater almost entirely dominated by religion. The Elizabethan theater was a development of the medieval theater, and it too had the support of Catholics. Such is the testimony of a manuscript (dated 1618) in the Folger Shakespeare Library, written by an Elizabethan priest, Father Thomas Leke, who assert that most of the principal Catholics in London, clerics and lay people, frequented the playhouses.

As Mr. Norman penetrates more deeply into the study of the poet he seems to lose all desire to belabor clerics. No doubt in this he was unconsciously influenced by the "gentle Shakespeare," the man who, in the words of John Dryden, "of all modern, and perhaps ancient poets, had the largest and most comprehensive soul."

CHAOS AND PEACE

The Last Legend

Thomas O'Malley B-H, $2.50

Reviewed by Raymond Roseliep, Loras College English faculty, contributor of many original and translated poems to the Marian anthology, "I Sing of a Maiden."

The Last Legend is at once epical and allegorical in scope. Its theme is a pretentious one: the evolution of modern man in a chaotic world, and the essays of spiritual forces to return humankind to a state of peace.

Allegory is a good enough device for the dramatist or the poet, but when it is employed it should deal clean-cut thrusts—thrusts that do not saw. Thomas O'Malley's allegory is not clean-cut simply because its figures are not apparent enough for the personalities or powers represented. The thrusts are sawing ones, unnatural, due to the archaic diction, the occasional ellipsis of the definite article, and the profusion of prosy and forced lines: all of which contribute to a bloodless and nerveless blank verse.

This could have been an estimable flight of fancy.

Scots-Catholic Breed

The Highland Heart in Nova Scotia

Neil MacNeil Scribner, $2.75

Reviewed by Rev. Leo R. Ward, C.S.C., Ph.D., author Nova Scotia, Ourselves, Inc., Holding Up the Hills, A Philosophy of Value, etc.

This is a pleasant little book. It is good, simply harmless chatter, but at no point does the writing or the thought rise to any height. The aim is to give a kind of rosy-romantic account of the Highlands in Nova Scotia a generation or two ago, at the time when the author's grandfather was the boys' model man and the author was a boy. Its chief merit is its simplicity, which makes it easy to read.

The glamor part of it is compounded of two elements, the remarkable funny doings among the Scots in the Island or near-island of Iona, Nova Scotia, and the strangeness and remoteness of people's living so poorly and unpretentiously as the Iona people then did. The reviewer, who visited some days in Iona, is ready to vouch with the author that the people there are poor and in all likelihood must remain poor. They also are sturdy, genuine, simple, and thus have at least some qualities that have not clearly come through in the present book.

A straight-out telling of the author's boyhood would have been excellent, or of his grandfather's life or his father's life. Somehow these are mixed enough to cancel any strong effect. Nothing stands out, neither the style, the humor, the quaintness, the strength of the people, nor the characters. For instance, it is said that no pet can be more interesting nor more fun than a pet pig, but this, though perhaps true, is merely said, with no life, no art, no science no conviction in the saying.

Possibly the materials were not great and to begin with there was the hard problem on the author's part of keeping distinct his narrative reporting and his creative fiction. The result, it seems to the reviewer, is merely *a good little book.*

(Author is Assistant Managing Editor, "New York Times."—Ed.)

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

Older Boys and Girls

Call of the Land

Harold M. Sherman Donahue, $2.50
Reviewed by James M. Shea, Loveland, Ohio.

Young Dave Carson, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, returns home to Hidden Valley, Ark., organizes a 4-H club, and presently solves all of Hidden Valley's major problems.

Intended to glorify rural life and "the high adventure in 4-H work," this book succeeds only in coating both with a sticky veneer of glamor. The author, who is credited with "more than 50 sport and adventure novels," apparently has overlooked the roots of culture that lie in the soil. What he has discovered is "the freshness of the great outdoors, the enchantment of growing things," and so on. One "golden-haired girl with liquid blue eyes" is thrilled with a box of candy from Schrafft's. "Oh, David, I've seen this advertised so much!" Another unguardedly reflects upon "the humdrum of pots and pans and menial barnyard chores." David himself aspires to see "all the conveniences of the city, right in their own homes." At the end Dave's best friend sees " a vision —a lovely bride in white, floating dreamily toward him." After that everything is "a glorius haze."

This glorious haze will not inspire those who have found or who hope to find in life on the land and opportunity to live an integrated Christian life. Neither will it satisfy the average reader, who deserves more realistic fare.

Copy Kate

Marjory Hall (il. Elinor Darby) H M, $2.50

People Are Our Business

Beryl Williams Lipp, $2.50
Reviewed by Helen Fagan, featur writer, "The Evangelist," Albany.

Teen-agers, particularly senior high-school boys and girls contemplating positions in the business world or careers dealing with people, will enjoy and profit from reading these two.

Copy Kate tells of a girl and her worries and struggles as a novice in the advertising field, and of her success when she finally becomes a copywriter with her own office. The book contains amusing pen and ink sketches and provides excellent advertising background.

People Are Our Business is a series of career stories of ten American men and women who work in varied fields dealing directly with people, disclosing how these men and women achieved their positions and the work they do. The book might be called a vocational guide as it deals with psychologist, occupational therapist, librarian, psychiatric social worker, settlement house headworker and other unusual careers.

Here is St. Imaginus with the pigeons, in one of the episodes from this enchanting mythical fioretti—Twelve Tales of the Life and Adventures of Saint Imaginus, "edited" by Frances M. McGuire for humor-lovers of all ages ($1.50).

In My Book These Are The Stars

Bing Crosby et al. CSMC, 50c

Thoughts and experiences on the subject of religious vocation, written by priests, sisters and laymen. These lightly-styled "new looks" at the priesthood and religious life will attract avid readers among young and old. Especially commendable, among the 17 articles in the collection, are: *I Remember My Last Date,* by Sister M. Claudette, O.S.U.; *Talk to a Priest About The Priesthood,* by Rev. Paul Bailey, C.S.C.; and the title-piece by Bing Crosby. This booklet should find welcome space in every school library and vocational display.

—*Richard Butler, O.P.*

---"*Youth Today*" *Awards*

Willow Hill

Phyllis A. Whitney McKay, $2.50

The Divided Heart

Mina Lewiton McKay, $2.50
Reviewed by Teresa Sweetser Preston (with the help of one of the Six Little Prestons).

Two very fine books for older girls, each dealing with the impact of a social problem on the youth of today: the first, the struggle of high school students with the problem of racial intolerance, and the second, the effect of family quarreling and divorce on a thoughtful adolescent mind.

Willow Hill well deserves its first award of $3,500 since its exciting action will appeal more generally to the age-group for which it was written; but *The Divided Heart* is so deeply moving, such a fragile and charming picture, that the judges must have passed it by regretfully. Both authors are seasoned writers of books for young people.

Willow Hill is the story of a group of highschool seniors—especially Val Coleman, lanky and literary daughter of the athletic coach, and her humorous pal Judy—a group who begin the year at Willow High almost unaware of the Negro Problem until a housing project brings an influx of colored students. When there are Incidents, magnified and misunderstood by prejudiced townsfolk, the young people are forced to take sides in a fast dividing town and school—a division they are able to make a good start at preventing by some original thinking and fast action of their own, rather showing up ther elders.

A really good heart-interest is woven into the action, and a crucial basketball game and an heroically prevented race-riot by lamplight in the Negro district make a fine climax. One judge called it "a corking good story," and our j.g. reviewer said it was the best book she had read in a long time.

The Divided Heart is a quieter book but each page seems to have been lifted out of real life—the not too happy life of a lovable and thoughtful girl of 15 the Spring that she grows up. Julie Forrest is the only child of a fine but impatiently practical mother and a charming but artistically impractical father. She is terribly fond of both and for years has been able to use her "shutting-out trick" to keep from hearing their arguments on the other side of her

bedroom wall. But now the trouble comes to a head, the little family is broken, and whimsical Julie must face reality.

Her beautiful singing voice, a harp her father sends her, a stray kitten, helping in a baby nursery, her best friend's understanding brother, a visit to her mother's old home in the country, all help her to achieve mental poise and, finally, a musical triumph which makes a most satisfactory climax.

Perhaps the book's greatest power comes from what is left out; none of the sordidness of quarreling and unfaithfulness and lack of balance and divorce is recorded; filtered through the mind of Julie, only the quintessence of sadness is left. No one seeing a divorce and broken home thus, through the mind of its victim, would dare to consider it lightly. The sketchily clever characterizations, the casual touch-and-go quality of the writing, are duplicated and enhanced by the charming composite pen sketches by the author's husband.

(The j. g. reviewer was not quite so much impressed as her ranking officer.)

Polish Folk Tales

tr. Lucia Merecka Borski
(il. Erica Gorecka-Egan) S & W, $2.00

Reviewed by Therese Fischer.

The promise of the unusual beauty and high quality of the typography and design is fulfilled by the text of *Polish Folk Tales.* These tales, expressions of a truly Catholic culture, are retold with the freshness of original stories. In the American idiom, Mrs. Borski manages to preserve the mood and feeling of a foreign land. All the stories are of substance, and prove satisfying to average readers, young and old. There are sixteen in all, with themes that vary from Queen Kinga of the unusual hair to the Old Man who tries to elude Death by hiding under a table.

A NEW VAN STOCKUM

The Mitchells (Mrs. Van S.'s not-too-fictional family) are at it again, with a new procession of uproarious adventures across the boarder, to be read about by all citizens from 8 up, in "Canadian Summer" ($2.50).

Author is one of BOT's favorites —both words and pictures—and a deeply Catholic mother and housewife besides.

Your Kind Indulgence

Gladys Malvern Messner, $2.50

Reviewed by Sister M. Annunciata, R. S. M., Glennon High School, Kansas City.

The story, told with fine feeling, of a proud, determined young girl striving to be another Mrs. Siddons in New York's first theater during the period between the end of the Revolutionary War and the election of Washington.

Heroine Susanna Gage, daughter of strolling players, left England at 16 to establish herself on the stage with the John Street Players in New York. In love with Lord Carelton, she felt that if she achieved success in the theater he might marry her, a commoner. She did achieve success of a sort, but only after a mighty struggle against jealous rivals and her own love for a young American doctor whom she repulsed in fear that his medical career would suffer if he associated with an actress. Experience later proved to her that a brilliant career was not for her, that Lord Carelton was pretty much of a scoundrel, that she could be very happy as the wife of a doctor.

Embracing medical and dramtic history within the framework of American history, and setting forth the right ideals and values, this is *a valuable book for young readers.* Noteworthy is the description of the historical riot against doctors for dissecting human bodies after death to obtain professional knowledge.

Advice for Boys

Rev. T. C. Siekmann Wagner, $2.50

Reviewed by Richard Butler, O.P.

There is a definite and depolorable need for spiritual guidance written directly for youth—an inviting, integrated and positive presentation of the life of grace here and its consummation in glory hereafter—rooted in the solid truths of faith and simply slanted with a genuine understanding of the juvenile mind and heart.

Present author does not achieve such an exalted goal; but he has made an encouraging beginning on the right track and has set a pace for those who, we hope, will follow. His abundant experience with and sincere interest in youth are obvious assets for his task. Without a strenuous attempt at organizing his material, he conversationally discusses such pertinent subjects as obedience, cheerfulness, honesty, girls, vocation, temptation, confession, the Rosary and the Mass (which I think is his best chapter).

Paradoxically, Father Siekmann's weakness lies in his strength. On two particular points the deficiency results from too much of a good thing.

First of all, Father's advice is *positive,* and that is good. He does not bother with the usual disjointed prohibitions, but concentrates on drawing the boy forward to that perfection which is the very purpose of Christian life. But in hastening his young reader forward, the author does not pause sufficiently to pick up the stumbling boy and dust him off. In other words, there is not enough consideration for the actual pitfalls that lie in the boy's path. The boy must know not only that they are there, but how, explicitly, to avoid them; or if he has already tripped, how to climb out and up in the speediest and surest way. Moreover, he must realize and learn to recognize the primary source of all his setbacks, appreciate the continual struggle between God and self, and learn how to overcome his well-intentioned timidity and lukewarmness. In his enthusiasm, Father tends to rush ahead, dragging rather than drawing the boy after him.

Secondly, the author's style is extremely simple; and that, of course, is also good. The book reads like a primer and I am sure that most boys could and probably would read his advice at a single untiring sitting. But this same simplicity works to a disadvantage when necessary qualifications are omitted for the sake of short punchy sentences. For example: "Catholic Action will save the world." And again: "Christ could save the world by Himself, but He does not. He depends upon us to help Him." The undistinguishing mind of youth, most especially, needs precision of thought and consequently of diction.

INDEX TO VOLUME VI

The following pages comprise our annual capsule appraisals of all books covered in BOOKS ON TRIAL, Vol. VI—that is, from May, 1947, through April, 1948, plus a few more to be reviewed in future issues, and a few that for good reasons have never been treated exhaustively in BOOKS ON TRIAL.

Numerals after the annotations indicate page numbers in Vol. VI. Entries without numbers are books in the present or future issues. Asterisk indicates full review or principle entry.

Index follows dictionary style, with title, author, and sometimes subject, merged in one list. Juvenile authors, titles and subject are entered in their own list, according to that system. Indexing was done by Helen Ryan and BOT staff.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

AWR—Adult, With Reservations
DIS—Disapproved
EXC—Excellent
VG—Very Good
G—Good
FAV—Favorable
DM—Doubtful Merit
HS—High School
MSO—Mature Students Only
NR—Not Recommended
SAT—Satisfactory
SC—See Comment
TFA—Too Far Advanced
WR—With Reservations

A

Abbot Suger: On the Abbey Church of St. Denis. ed. & tr. Erwin Panofsky. Princeton, $3.75. A-FAV. 69

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Abend, Hallett. Reconquest: Its Results and Responsibilities. 135

The Abolition of Man. C. S. Lewis. Mac, $1.25. Strong exposition of man's need for moral order. A-REC. 21, 83

About Lyddy Thomas. Maritta Wolff. Random, $3.50. Excessively realistic, however faithful, transcript riveting wives & their GI husbands. A-NR.

Abraham Lincoln: His life, Work and Character. ed. Edward Wagenknecht. Creative Age, $4.00. Useful anthology. A-HS-FAV. 169

Abram, Son of Terah. Florence Marvyne Bauer. Bobbs, $3.00. Biblical fiction. A-G(WR). 226

The Abuse of Learning. Frederic Lilge. Mac, $2.75. "Failure of the German University." A-MSO-G.

The Acquisitive Society. R. H. Tawney. H B, $2.50. Reprint. Thoughtful analysis materialistic civilization. A-FAV. 83

Acree, Ed. Golf simplified. 56

Across the Line. Anice Terhune. Dutton, $2.00. Discusses believed communication with dead. A-NR. 55

Across the Wide Missouri. Bernard DeVoto. H M, 10.00. Story Rocky Mountain fur trade. A-FAV. 210

Adams, Samuel H. Banner by the Wayside. 6*

Adamson, John William. The Illiterate Anglo-Saxon. 172

Addresses & Letters on the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Most Rev. Amleto G. Cicognani. SAG, $1.00. 200

Admiral Halsey's Story. W. F. Halsey & J. Bryan, III. Whit., $4.00. Frank account Pacific war. A-FAV. 210, 257

Adventures with a Texas Naturalist. Roy Bedichek. Doubleday, $3.50. Record of lifetime nature study. A-FAV. 210

Adversary in the House. Irving Stone. Eugene Debs fictionized. A-DM. 151*, 169

Affirmation of Immortality. John Haynes Holmes. Mac, $1.50. Vague, non-rational, unconvincing. A-DIS. 103*

After Black Coffee. Robert I. Gannon, S.J. McMullen, $2.25. Informal discourse at its best. A-HS-REC. 83, 169 TMBC

The Age of Anxiety. W. H. Auden. Random, $2.50. Serious, difficult poetry. A-FAV. 140, 166

The Age of Reason. Jean-Paul Sartre. Knopf, 3.00. Existentialist novel; immoral. A-DIS. 83, 129

Agricultural Handbook for Rural Pastors and Laymen. Thomas E. Howard. SAG, $1.50. Services rendered by existing agricultural agencies. A-FAV. 55

The Alamo. John Myers. Dutton, $3.00. Good reconstruction famous battle. AWR. 257

Aldanov, Mark. Before the Deluge. 169

Alexander the Great. Charles Alexander Robinson, Jr. Dutton, $3.75. Creative study Macedonian leader. A-FAV(WR) 83, 129

Alexandra. Gladys Schmitt. Dial, $3.00. Neurotic novel soi-disant great actress. A-NR. 155

Alfreda, Sr. M. (Elsensohn). Pioneer days in Idaho County.

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All Soul's Night. John Kelly. H. B, $3.00. Coarse, ribald, blasphemous. A-DIS. 21, 83

Allport, Gordon W. & Leo Postman. The Psychology of Rumor. 135

Alone Among Men. Marjorie Coryn. A-C, $3.00. "Third vol. fictionalized biog. Napoleon. AWR. 129

Aloysius, Fr. OFM Cap. Other Christs.

Alsop, Gulielma F. April in the Branches. 55

Altar Prayers in Spanish. Arr. A. Simon, OMI, SAG, $1.25. Prin. prayers recited in vernacular, large type for altar use. FAV.

Always the Need. Joseph Joel Keith. Dierkes, $2.00. Versified story lonely son of broken home. A-SAT.

The Amazing Electron. James I. Shannon. Bruce, $4.00. Useful for reader with some scientific background. A-FAV. 21

Ambruster, Howard Watson. Treason's Peace. 176

America in Our Time. Dwight Lowell Dumond. Holt, $4.75. Social interpretations last 50 years. A-SAT. 129

American Communism. Oneal & Werner. Dutton, $5.00. Rev. ed. with emphasis on beginnings. A-SAT. 42, 117*, 169

American Essays for the Newman Centennial. ed. John K. Ryan and Edmond D. Benard. C.U.A., $3.50. Some memorable articles. A-FAV. 83.

The American Experience. Henry Bamford Parkes. Knopf, $3.50. Stimulating study, invalidated by incorrect statements anent Church. AWR. 210.

The American Iliad. Otto Eisenschiml & Ralph Newman. Bobbs, $5.00. Source-book on Civil War; unselective. AWR. 210

The American Imagination at Work. ed. Ben C. Clough. Knopf, $6.00. Anthology tall tales. A-SAT. 129, 169

American Memoir. Henry Seidel Canby. H M, $5.00. "Social & cultural history of an era." AWR. 140, 207

The American Past. Roger Butterfield. S & S, $10.00. Pictorial US history. A-FAV. 166, 257

The American Philosophy of Law. Francis LeBuffe, S.J. & James V. Hayes. 4th ed., rev., Crusader, $6.00. Defends natural law. A-VG. 146

American Thought 1947. Gresham, $3.75. Anthology published ideas, mostly heretical. A-DM. 21

America's Destiny. Herman Finer. Mac, $5.00. Suggests world peace via US use of force; confused philosophy. A-DM. 210

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Among the Folks in History. Gaar Williams. R-McN, $2.00. Beloved Tribune cartoons. A-VG. 246*

Ancient Mariners. Walter W. Hyde. Oxford, $5.00. Contrib. ancient peoples to human knowledge. A-FAV. 140

And Blow Not the Trumpet. Stanley D. Porteus. Pacific, $3.50. Studies Hawaiian attitudes towards Japan. A-SAT. 169

And Call It Peace. Marshall Knappen. U. Chicago, $3.00. Realistic very critical treatment German problems. AWR. 198*, 210

And Never Goodbye. Robert J. Kuhn. A-C, $3.00. Weak, inconclusive novel. A-DIS. 83

And Thou Shalt Teach Them. Paul Eldredge. Sheridan, $2.75. Case histories maladjusted students & teachers in NY high school. A-DM. 210.

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Angels in the Dust. Zofia Kossak. Roy, $3.50. Scholarly novel First Crusade. A-FAV. 129, 157*

Angels' Metal. Ann Abelson. H B, $2.50. Inferior novel malevolently anti-Catholic. A-DIS. 21, 83

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Anshan, Ruth Nanda, ed. Our Emergent Civilization. 196*

Anthony Trollope. Elizabeth Bowen. Oxford, $1.00. A play on Eng. novelist; biblio. A-FAV. 140

Any Saint to Any Nun. sel. & arr. a Stanbrook Benedictine. Kenedy, $2.50. Letters great saints on spiritual life. A-EXC. 42, 106*, 139

The Apocalypse of Saint John. R. J. Loenertz, O.P. S & W, $2.50. Helpful illumination on N.T. "mystery-book." A-FAV.

Apologia pro Vita Sua. Card. Newman. Intro. Maisie Ward. S & W, $3.00. 1865 ed. incl. appendices. A-VG. 30

Apologia pro Vita Sua. Card. Newman. ed. C. F.

Harrold. L G, $3.50. New def. ed. marred by arbitrary intro. A-G(WR). 218

The Apostolic Fathers. tr. F. X. Glimm, J. Marique, SJ, & G. Walsh, SJ, Cima, $4.00. Vol. I of "The Writings of the Fathers of the Church," new trans. & comment. A-EXC. 159, 218

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Arand, Louis A., tr. St. Augustine: Faith, Hope and Charity. 139, 218

Archbishop Stepinac: The Man and His Case. Count Anthony H. O'Brien of Thomond. Newman, $1.75 & 60c. Testimony to prelate's innocence & justice. A-REC. 229*

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The Assault. Allan R. Matthews. S & S, $2.50. Battle of Iwo Jima, by newsman; marred by Mauldin's foreword & profanity. A-O. 84

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B

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The Balkans: Frontier of Two Worlds. William B. King & Frank O'Brien. Knopf, $3.50. Detailed study Balkan history & culture. A—SAT. 129

Banner by the Wayside. Samuel H. Adams. Random, $3.00. Picturesque study early life along Erie Canal. A—SAT. 6*

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Behold This Heart. H. J. Heagney. Kenedy, $3.50. St. Margaret Mary Alocoque. A—HS—SAT. 239*

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The Big Bonanza. Dan De Quille. Knopf, $5.00. Reissue of a 1876 Western. A—SAT. 22

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An important book.

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EG—Elementary Grades
IG—Intermediate Grades
JH—Junior High Level
JHB—Junior High Boys
JHG—Junior High Girls
SH—Senior High Level
SHB—Senior High Boys
SHG—Senior High Girls

A

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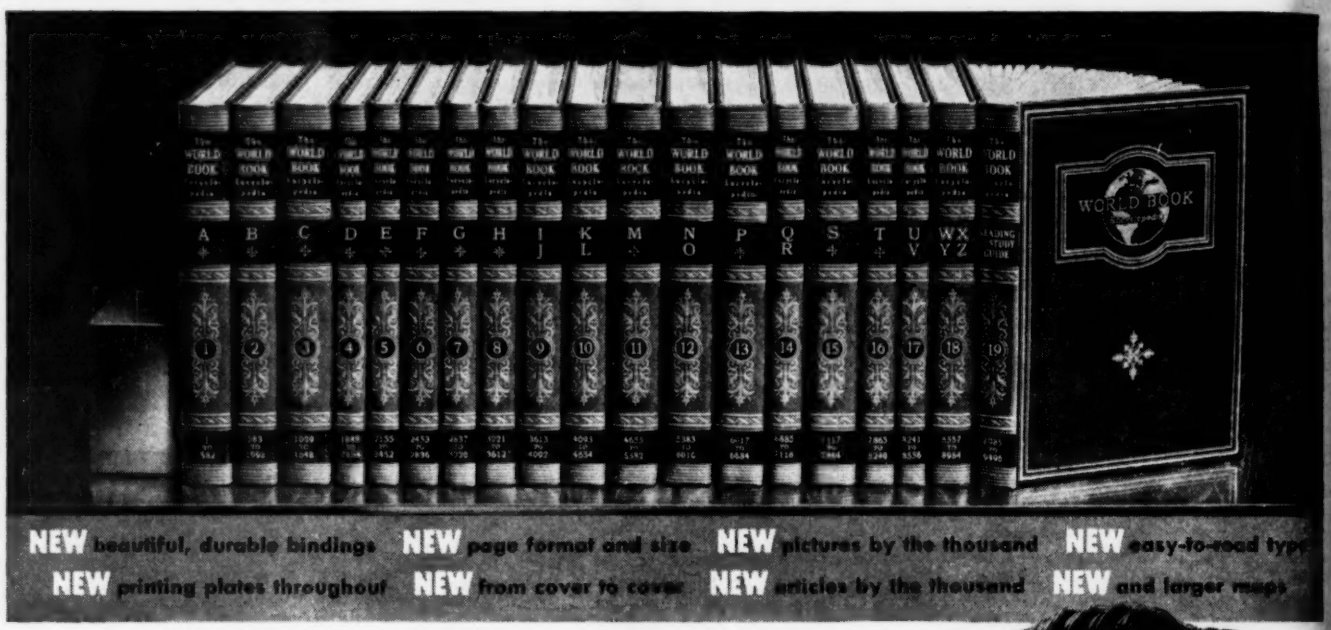

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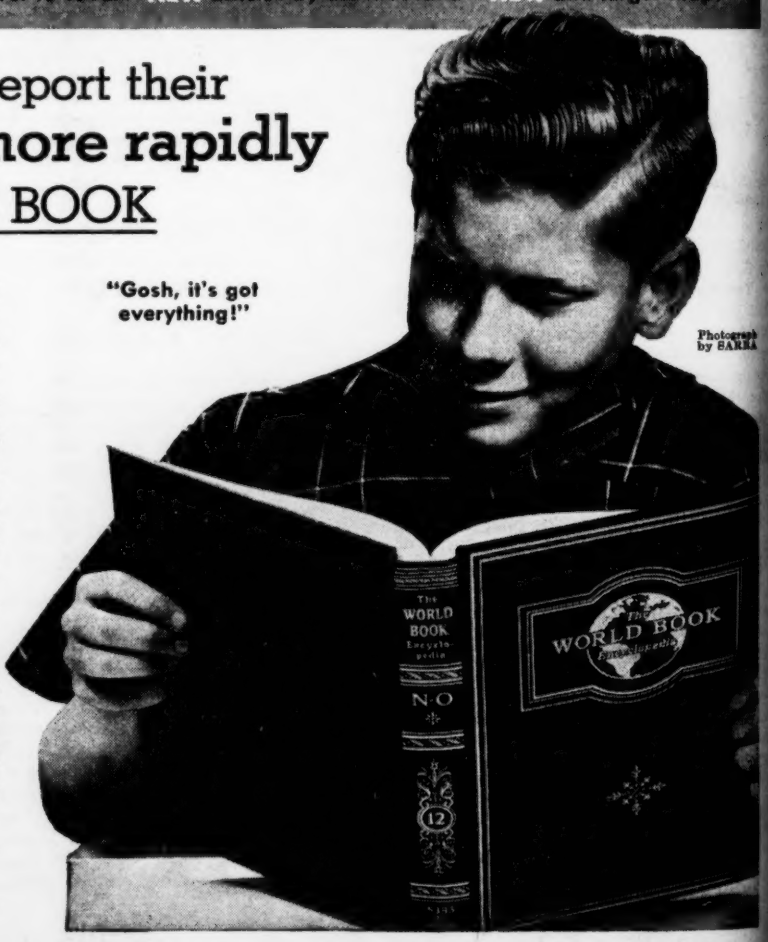

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